## NBI urged to find Piatco's mysterious consultant

STORY ON PAGE A2

MARAMI RIN AKONG FANS SA INDONESIA!!!

### GMA draws praises from Indonesians

JAKARTA—Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo's election planners should take note. Her handling of the Sabah refugee crisis may have ruffled feathers in

GMA/A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- RP export growth seen BUSINESS / B3
- ABS-CBN found guilty of piracy METRO / A25
- MILF wooing Pinoys ousted from Sabah ACROSS / A11

# AFP ready for more losses

## *Southcom denies Abus had escaped*

**By Julie S. Alipala**
*PDI Mindanao Bureau*

**ZAMBOANGA CITY—Disputing reports that Abu Sayyaf bandits had slipped through a military cordon, Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ernesto Carolina yesterday said the noose around the group's neck was getting tighter instead.**

Despite the deaths of at least eight soldiers in recent clashes with the bandits, Carolina said the military was prepared to suffer more losses.

"We are prepared to inflict more casualties against the Abu Sayyaf and we're ready to absorb losses," Carolina told the INQUIRER. "We know this will be very bloody and we are prepared for that."

At the same time, local officials in Patikul town in Sulu said the bandit leader responsible for kidnapping six Jehovah's Witnesses and beheading two of them last month was killed in the military encounter on Friday.

Carolina said an additional Marine battalion was deployed in Sulu yesterday, although the same number of government troops was on standby to seal off the bandits' exit and entry points.

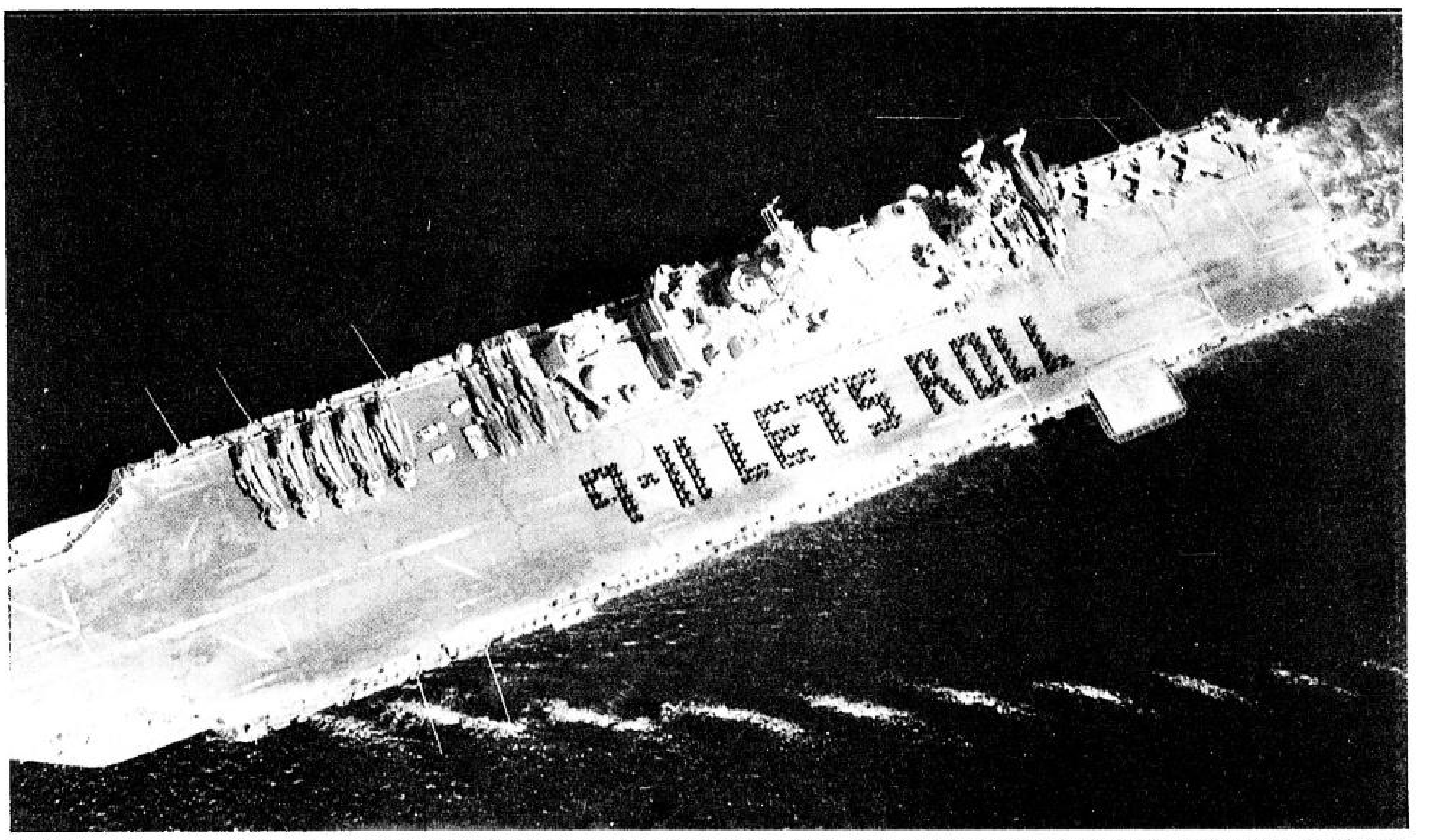
"We have already constricted the movement of the Abu Sayyaf," he said, as he confirmed two encounters on Thursday and Friday on Minis Island and Mount Tunggal, about 10 km north of the provincial capital of Jolo.

At least eight soldiers and 14 bandits were killed in the clashes.

The operations are part of the military's Oplan Endgame against the Abu Sayyaf. At least 12 battalions have already been deployed in Sulu, mostly in Patikul.

Carolina said at least 10 barangays in Patikul and Talipao had already been "secured" by the Philippine Navy's Task Force Stingray, "to ensure that Radulan Sahiron, alias Kumander Putol, and his cohorts, Abdulmuin Sahiron alias Kumander Arafat, can-

AFP/A18



**MORE than 500 sailors and Marines assemble on the USS Belleau Wood deck to commemorate the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the United States by spelling out the now-famous quote from Todd Beamer after he and several passengers of United Flight 93 tried to regain control of the plane from hijackers. The plane crashed in Pennsylvania.** REUTERS

## Life is short, should be lived to the full, 9/11 survivors say

**By Carla P. Gomez**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

SEPTEMBER
Remembered

BACOLOD CITY—Life is short. And should be lived to the full.

For two Filipino survivors of the Sept. 11 attack on the World Trade Center in New York City a year ago, the lessons of that life-changing event are simple and clear.

Negrenses Marie Therese Lacson, 24, and Raffy Kilayko, 30, were both on their way to their offices at the Twin Towers when catastrophe struck.

The deaths of thousands, Lacson said, made her understand that life is a gift, and can be taken in a snap. "It made me realize that life can be short and that I would like mine to be lived happily with people I treasure," she said.

Lacson, daughter of former Negros Occidental Gov. Daniel Lacson, worked on the 18th floor of one of the WTC towers as executive assistant to the president of Stellar Services. Kilayko was an investment banker at Morgan, Stanley, Dean, Witter, the top brokerage-financial house that had offices on the 74th floor.

On the fateful day last year, Lacson's train stopped at the basement of the WTC at about 8:45 a.m.—plenty of time to get to her office before 9 a.m. When she got off

LIFE/A18

## Gov't needs ₱8.6B to repatriate Pinoy workers from Gulf

**By Norman Bordadora**

REPATRIATING most of the overseas Filipino workers in the Middle East once the current crisis in Iraq erupts into a full-scale war with the United States and its allies will cost the government P8.6 billion.

A source in the Department of Foreign Affairs said the amount was based on the DFA's probable needs in "a worst-case scenario."

Some 1.4 million documented overseas Filipino workers are in the Middle East, of whom about 400,000 are in Saudi Arabia.

The DFA's contingency plan would in-

GOV'T/A18

## 'Angelica' need not face rape probers in Sabah

**By Norman Bordadora**

THE DEPARTMENT of Foreign Affairs is not ready to allow the 13-year-old Filipino girl raped by policemen in Sabah to face Malaysian investigators.

A source close to Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said the DFA was looking at the possibility of taking a videotaped deposition instead of the girl being physically present in Malaysia for cross-examination.

"The DFA is coordinating with the Department of Justice and the Department of Social Welfare and Development regarding this option of a deposition," the source told the INQUIRER.

Malaysian authorities said they wanted the girl to return to Sabah for questioning and to lodge her complaint.

The girl—given the pseudonym "Angelica" by local officials—is one of tens of thousands of Filipino, Indonesian and other Asian illegals, including minors, expelled from Malaysia in recent months under a new immigration law.

The crackdown has ruffled Kuala Lumpur's relations with Manila and Jakarta. All three countries belong to the Association of South East Asian Nations.

Last week, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad

ANGELICA/A4

**IDEOLOGY divides; action unites. Rep. Satur Ocampo, a former communist rebel spokesperson, leads a "Trees for Peace" activity at the Quezon Memorial Park.** VAL HANDUMON

## Gov't, NDF sow seeds for just, lasting peace

**By Gerald G. Lacuarta and Agnes E. Donato**

EVEN if they can't reach a peace accord just yet, at least they can plant trees together.

Members and representatives of the government and the communist-led National Democratic Front (NDF) peace panels yesterday planted acacia seedlings at the Quezon Memorial Circle in Quezon City to show their willingness to resume formal negotiations.

Negotiators from both sides expressed the hope that formal talks would resume soon despite the government's preference for "back channeling."

Silvestre Bello III, head of the government panel, said the peace talks "should be brought to its logical end, and that is a just and lasting peace."

Organizers of the activity dubbed "Trees for Peace: Planting the Seeds for a Just and Lasting Peace"—the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan), Quezon City Parks Development Foundation Inc., Philippine Peace Center and the Interfaith Network for Justice and Peace (INJP)—said the planting of trees symbolized their quest for peace.

The peace advocates called for the resumption of the peace talks in accordance with The Hague Declaration of 1992 and nine other agreements reached in the last 10 years of talks between the government and the NDF.

The peace talks have been suspended since June last year after guerrillas of

GOV'T/A18

## Prospects bright for RP nurses in Britain, US

ASHFORD, England—In a small communal kitchen just outside London, a group of young Filipina nurses cook up a breakfast of fried *tilapia* fish.

They are hungry at the end of their 11-hour night shifts at a sprawling hospital complex near Heathrow airport, and their hearty meal reminds them of home thousands of miles away.

The nurses are part of a growing army of immigrant health workers essential to the running of Britain's ailing state-run National Health Service (NHS).

And, as the government pours money into the service in its struggle to deliver on promises to cut waiting lists for operations, the need for recruits is more urgent than ever.

Britain simply cannot train members of the medical staff as fast as it needs to employ them, but the obvious answer—more recruitment from outside the country—has attracted a flurry of negative reports in the press.

In July, a surgeon's claim that he had to halt an operation because the theater nurses could

PROSPECTS/A18

Second FRONT PAGE

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: The Western sections of Central and Southern Luzon and Western Visayas will have monsoon rains. The rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/09/09/02

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| Calapan | Monsoon Rains | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

# Hunt for Piatco PR man urged

By Rocky Nazareno

**SENATE President Franklin Drilon wants the National Bureau of Investigation to help find the elusive Alfonso Liongson, the mysterious consultant of the Philippine International Air Terminals Inc. (Piatco) who was allegedly paid $2 million in "public relations service" fees for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport 3 (Naia 3) project.**

Drilon deplored how Liongson, who has been subpoenaed by the Senate blue ribbon committee, continues to snub the proceedings.

"We may need the NBI to compel Liongson to appear," Drilon said. The hearings resume on Wednesday.

Blue ribbon committee chair Joker Arroyo said earlier that Liongson, former United Laboratories vice president for marketing, was not at his listed Barangay Wack Wack, Mandaluyong address when the summons was served.

At last Friday's hearing, Piatco president Cheng Yong said he recommended to Piatco's German partner Fraport AG (Frankfurt Airport Services Worldwide) that Liongson be hired for "PR crisis management" to counter the negative publicity on Naia 3.

Cheng revealed that Liongson was paid $200,000 a month from June to December 2001 and a one-time lump sum of $600,000. The payments were remitted to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in Hong Kong, Cheng said.

Under the contract, Drilon noted, Liongson was to have been paid a total of $4.4 million for the job which was to be completed in November 2002, when Naia 3 opened. But last January, when the controversy erupted, Cheng said Liongson "stopped reporting."

Meanwhile, the Office of the Ombudsman was urged yesterday to investigate Presidential Adviser for Strategic Projects Gloria Tan Climaco, and a Lakas congressman asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to abolish Climaco's office.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, in a phone interview, said Climaco's function overlapped with that of Cabinet secretaries who had supervisory authority over infrastructure and other large-scale projects.

Climaco's pronouncements on Piatco had led to confusion in the interpretation and implementation of government policy, Pichay said.

He pointed out that, while Climaco proposed a government takeover of some $400 million representing Fraport's equity in the project, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, head of a panel tasked to review the Piatco deal, merely recommended a renegotiation of the contract.

Also yesterday, Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama urged the Ombudsman to investigate Climaco "for acts inimical to the government." He said Climaco had turned her fact-finding mandate into an "investment banking foray with a known financial intermediary, Joanne de Asis."

In a phone interview, Villarama said De Asis could be the German government's "favored financial broker," and was apparently brokering the deal to buy out Fraport's $400 million shares. *With Juliet L. Javellana and Christine O. Avendaño*

## Contract change doomed Nayong?

By Raul C. Dancel

NAYONG Pilipino, the nationalistic theme park forced to shut down last June after 30 years, might have been saved had the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. stuck to the original terms of its contract with the government, records obtained by the INQUIRER showed.

"There was no need to shut down and dig up Nayong Pilipino because the original contract between Piatco and the government called for the construction of a tunnel to connect Naia 3 with Naia 2," said a person familiar with the project.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that in 1999, Piatco's contract to build the Ninoy Aquino International Airport passenger terminal 3 was amended through a "supplement".

In that supplement, which was signed by Piatco president Cheng Yong and then transportation secretary Vicente Rivera, the tunnel was regarded as being "not technically feasible" and was scrapped.

The tunnel was replaced by an access road—referred to as T2-T3 road—that would run over 8.6 hectares of Nayong Pilipino's 40-hectare grounds.

The change saved Piatco about P800 million because a tunnel would have cost close to P1 billion.

The government, however, was forced to shoulder the cost of shutting down Nayong Pilipino.

Early this year, the Nayong Pilipino management signed a memorandum of agreement ceding control of the theme park for about P500 million to the Manila International Airport Authority, booting out about 50 concessionaires and laying off some 60 government workers.

The contract change involving Nayong Pilipino was among the "onerous" provisions that presidential adviser on strategic projects Gloria Tan-Climaco discovered in her review of Piatco's contract with the government.

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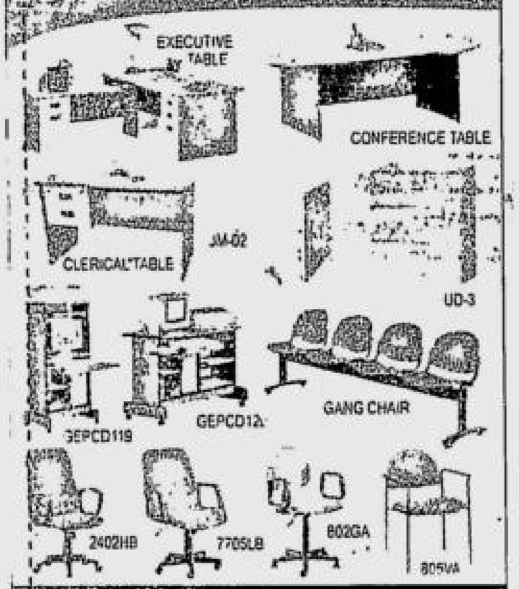

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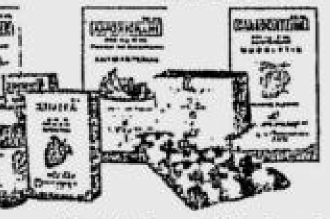

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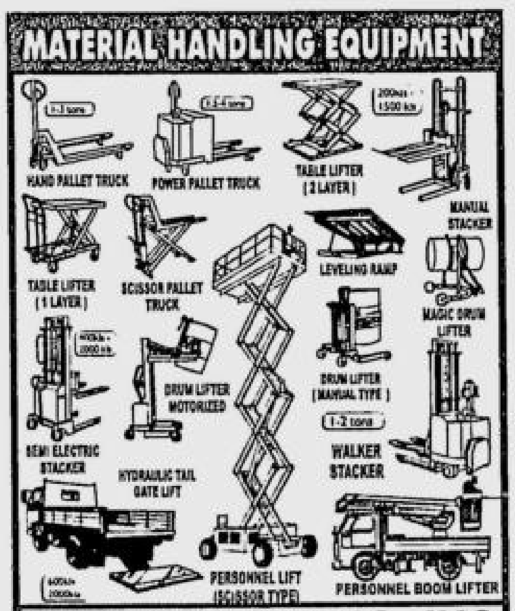

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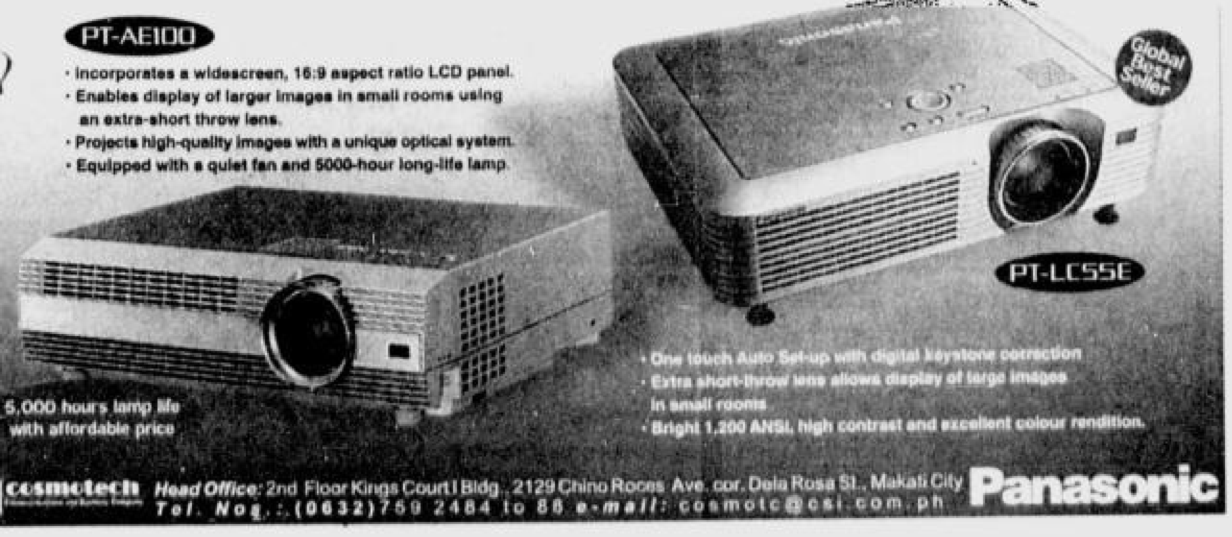

# 2nd headless soldier's body found in Sulu

By Martin P. Marfil

GOVERNMENT troops have found the headless body of a second soldier, a Muslim integree who had participated in Operation End Game in Sulu, according to Armed Forces public information chief Lt. Col. Danilo Servando.

The integree's remains were recovered by soldiers near Patikul, Sulu, where a fire-fight on Friday claimed the lives of eight soldiers and wounded 13 others.

An earlier military report said one of the soldiers killed in that incident had been beheaded. He was identified as a Pfc. Kuhutan. Servando yesterday withheld the identity of the second beheaded soldier.

Government troops continued pursuit operations against the Abu Sayyaf who continue to hold captive four members of the Jehovah's Witnesses religious group and three Indonesian seamen seized in the sea off Zamboanga. As of yesterday afternoon, no clashes were reported with the terrorist band.

Servando said the operation is being backed by helicopter gunships and field artillery units.

At least 6,000 soldiers are scouring the jungles of Sulu in a bid to finally rid the island of the Abu Sayyaf, which has been a deadly thorn in the government's side.

# Israel vows better treatment of illegals

UNDOCUMENTED overseas Filipino workers in Israel will be treated in a "humane and respectable manner" during the impending crackdown on illegal aliens there.

The Israeli government gave this assurance even as its ambassador to the Philippines, Irit Ben-Abba, confirmed that around 50,000 foreigners without permits to stay and work in his country were facing immediate deportation.

In a letter dated Sept. 4 to the United Philippine Manpower Agencies for Israel Association Inc., Ben-Abba "guaranteed" the safety and welfare of deportees. Ben-Abba said the decision encompassed "illegal workers of any nationality." *Blanche S. Rivera*

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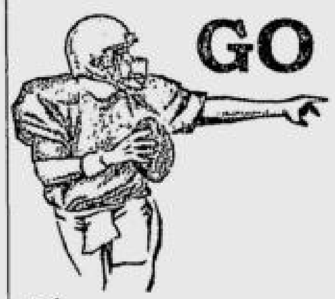

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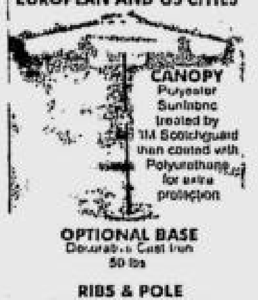

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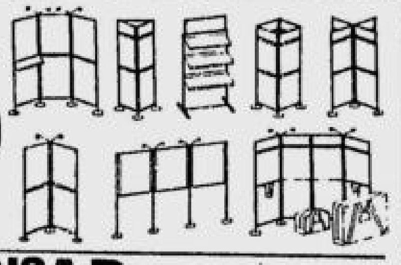

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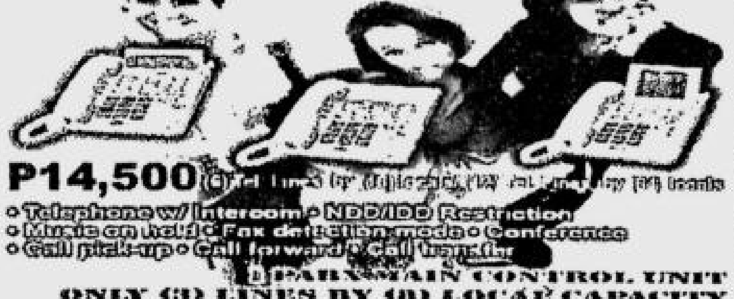

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# Senators slam Sabah probe report

JAAFAR

**By Rocky Nazareno**

THE PHILIPPINE delegation to Sabah, led by Nur Jaafar, presidential adviser on Muslim concerns, submitted a "deodorized report" when it expressed satisfaction with Malaysia's treatment of thousands of undocumented Filipinos in detention centers.

"The report of the government mission made it appear that everything is alright. I think that was not correct and did not reflect the harsh conditions of our countrymen in Sabah," said opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. in a statement.

Pimentel said the credibility of the report was "in question considering that the expelled Filipinos themselves, after arriving in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga City, told sad tales of the cruelties they suffered in the hands of Malaysian authorities."

Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda-Leviste, who personally visited the deportees at the Kasulutan Hall in Bongao, agreed with Pimentel.

"The stories from the deportees are sad, heart-rending accounts of parents separated from their children, sick and malnourished children going through the harrowing experience of deportation and many other tragic stories," Legarda said.

Through an interpreter, Legarda was able to talk to a 7-year-old boy who recounted how he was picked up by Malaysian authorities while he was walking on the streets of Sabah and summarily repatriated.

The boy, who talks in Malay, appealed to be reunited with his parents.

Another boy, Alferado Sobre, said that before he was sent back, Malaysian policemen toyed around with him. He was tied upside down with a nylon cord on a flagpole.

According to Legarda, Sahira Abdul suffered a miscarriage while in detention because she was beaten up with a stick by Malaysian police.

Legarda said her staff would put up an extension office at the Kasulutan Hall in coordination with Tawi-Tawi Gov. Jerry Matba to help the ousted Filipinos.

Pimentel said it was obvious that detained Filipinos who were interviewed by Jaafar's mission "were afraid of telling the truth."

"There is no excuse for this beastly treatment. And the sooner we inform Malaysia about our national outrage, the better it will be for all of us," he said.

Pimentel even suggested recalling Ambassador Jose Brillantes from Kuala Lumpur as a diplomatic protest if the Malaysian government did not stop the maltreatment of the Filipinos.

"The next step would be to raise the issue before the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. If the Malaysians would insist on ignoring a valid complaint, then a rupture of diplomatic relations may follow," he said.

# 'Angelica' need not face rape probers

From page A1

promised a full inquiry into the girl's allegations following a stinging protest from President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Malaysia's opposition Democratic Action Party on Friday urged Mahathir to form an independent inquiry into the alleged rape to restore the country's tarnished image.

Ople expressed concern over the possibility of the girl being exposed to further stress when Malaysian authorities subject her to investigation.

"The victim's emotional well-being is of paramount interest to the DFA. We will work closely with the DSWD and the DOJ for this child and other victims of maltreatment as well," Ople said in a statement.

No less than Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman confirmed the alleged rape of the girl, providing the main basis for the second note verbale lodged by Manila against Kuala Lumpur in just two weeks.

## Stolen childhood

The girl, now being treated by local psychologists, had been a victim of sexual abuse in Sabah since the age of 10, according to Soliman.

"Part of the rehabilitation is to help her be a child again because they have stolen her childhood, her innocence," Soliman told ANC Television network, providing for the first time details of the girl's life.

The social welfare secretary said the girl was the daughter of a poor Filipino couple working in Sabah who got separated from them at the age of 10.

"She started going out in the streets and ended up becoming among the street children," Soliman said. "She was 10 at that time and she was already abused by three men, who had picked her up."

Police in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, detained her seven months ago but deported her recently.

"There at the detention center, the police would take her out and she was sexually abused outside of the detention center. She can tell the story . . . but we want to keep her safe and unknown so that she can have a whole life ahead of her," Soliman said.

"We will help her until she gets a life that will help her to move on," Soliman said.

Lawyers of the DOJ are also collating evidence from other Filipino deportees.

"There would be a meeting of the DFA, DSWD and the DOJ with regard to the case of the young victim and other victims of alleged maltreatment in the hands of the immigration authorities in Malaysia," a DFA official said.

## Malaysian lawyer

In Kuala Lumpur, Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia Jose Brillantes said the embassy would appoint a Malaysian lawyer to represent the girl.

"We are looking into the possibility of appointing a Malaysian lawyer," Brillantes said. "This is the best of choice, because they're the ones that can practice (in Kuala Lumpur) without as much hassle as foreign lawyers, who first need approval from the legal profession."

He said the embassy had yet to decide on a specific counsel, but said it had a list of prospective Malaysian lawyers and would pick someone most suitable to handle the case.

"We are still looking at all possibilities, and hiring a Malaysian lawyer will be the best option because they know better," he said.

The rape and allegations of harsh treatment of many Filipino illegals in Sabah detention centers have provoked street protests and the burning of the Malaysian flag in Manila.

They have also triggered calls for the revival of the Philippine territorial claim to Sabah, which Manila says has historically belonged to the sultanate of Sulu.

Sabah was federated into Malaysia in 1963 over Philippine objections.

Rep. Apolinario Lozada said yesterday the country could take its claim to Sabah to the United Nations.

"Maybe the United Nations can propose that a referendum be called for the Sabahans to choose whether they would be with the Malaysians, or the Philippines or be an independent state. That is a possible solution," Lozada said on television. *With reports from AFP and Reuters*

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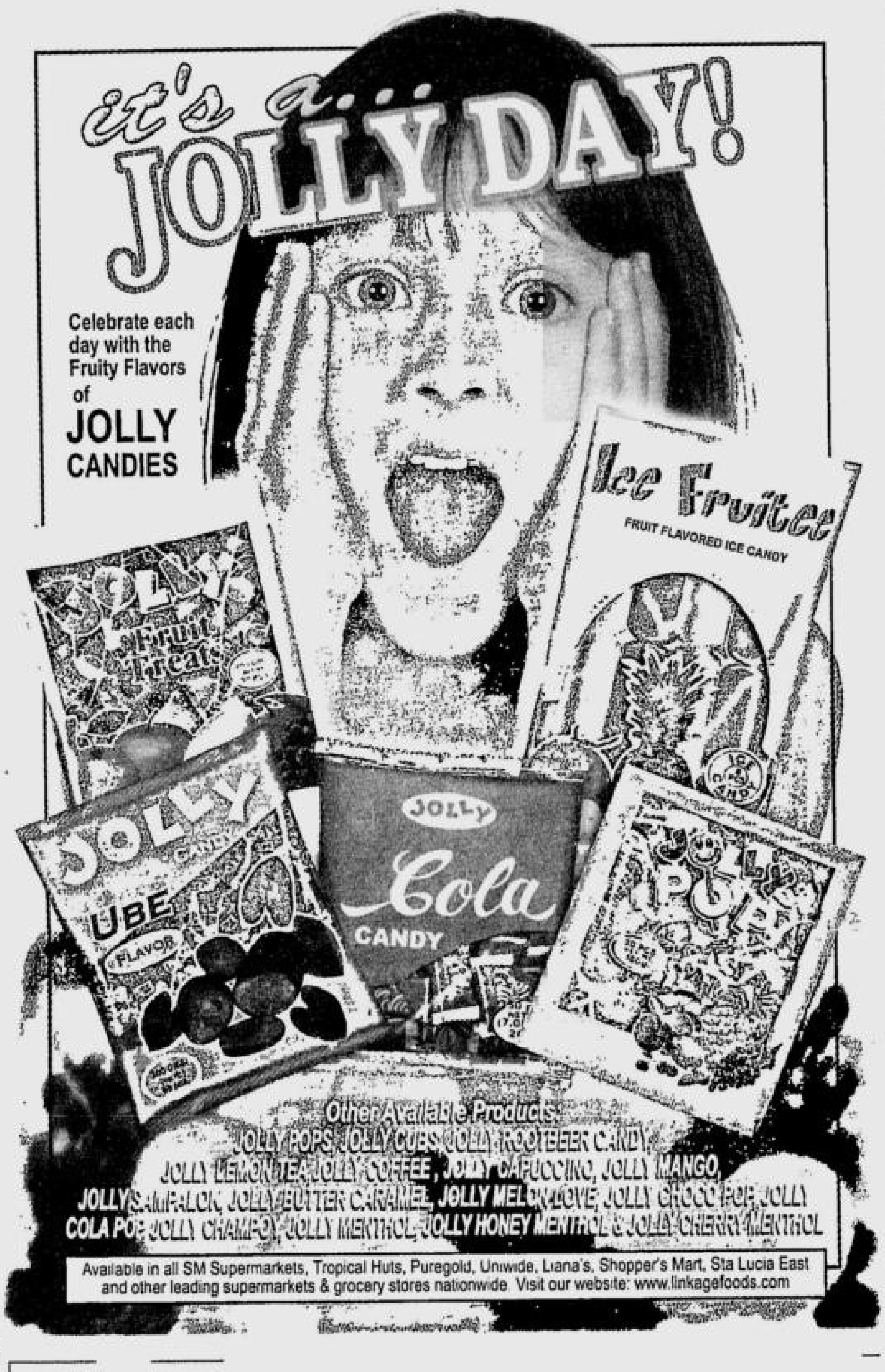

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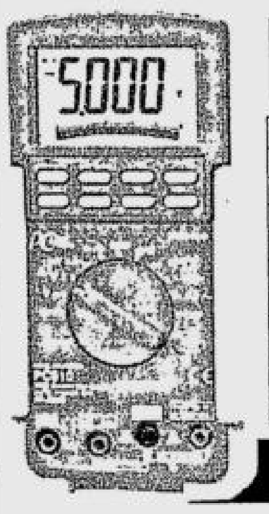

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# RP facing serious biodiversity crisis

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

STANDING on the brink of a "serious" biodiversity crisis, the Philippines could be the site of the "first major extinction spasm" if forest destruction remained unabated, an international conservation group warned.

In the book "Hotspots: Earth's Biologically Richest and Most Endangered Terrestrial Ecoregions," Conservation International (CI) Philippines said a biodiversity crisis in the country would exacerbate poverty among Filipinos.

According to the book, out of the Philippines' total land surface of 300,780 sq.km, the growing population has only 24,062 sq.km of remaining habitat to depend on.

Perry Ong, CI science director, said the Philippines is ranked seventh of 17 megadiverse countries in the world. These countries hold two-thirds of the earth's biological resources.

But the Philippines is also a bioversity hotspot, Ong said.

Biodiversity is the foundation of healthy and functioning ecosystems. A hotspot is an area facing serious threats of species loss and habitat destruction.

There are 25 identified hotspots in the world and the Philippines, Ong said, "is the world leader in degrees of endangerment."

Although some biologists feel that the Philippines' exceptional biodiversity is beyond saving, CI-Philippines said scientists should continue to work for its preservation.

"The possibility that critical medicines or drugs may be locked in reefs or rain forests is a compelling reason to do so." Ong said.

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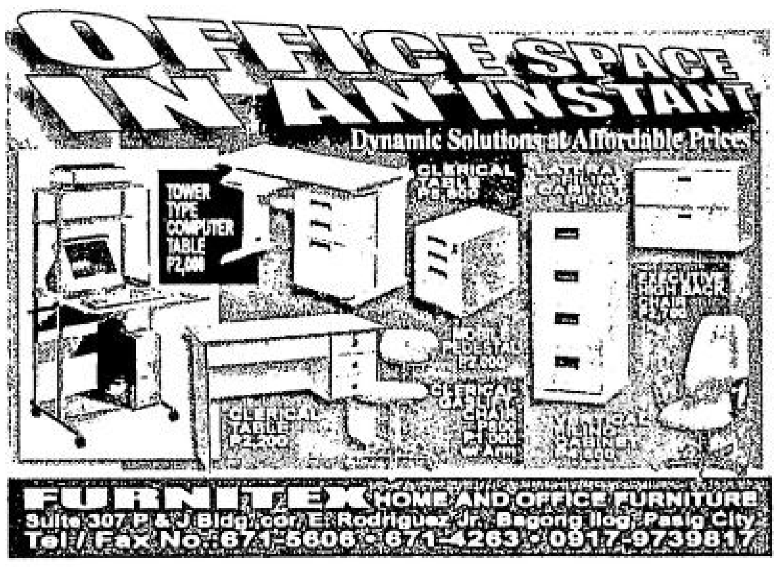

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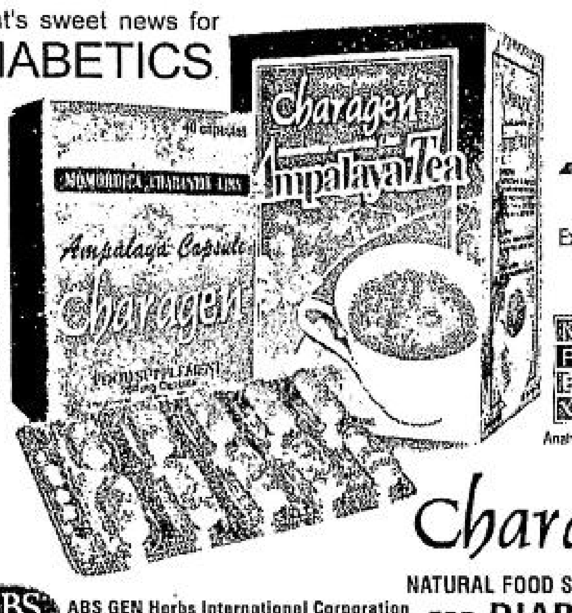

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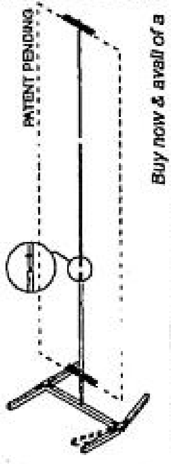

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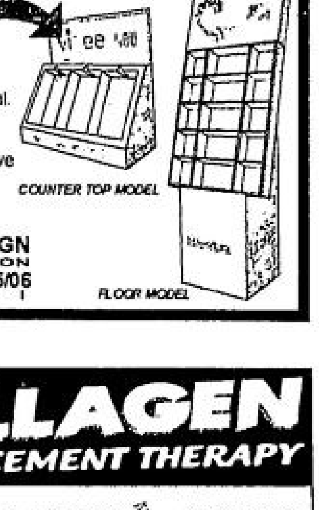

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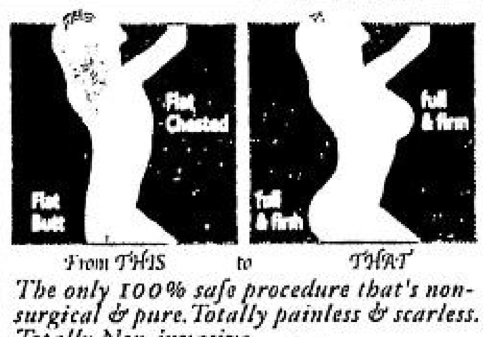

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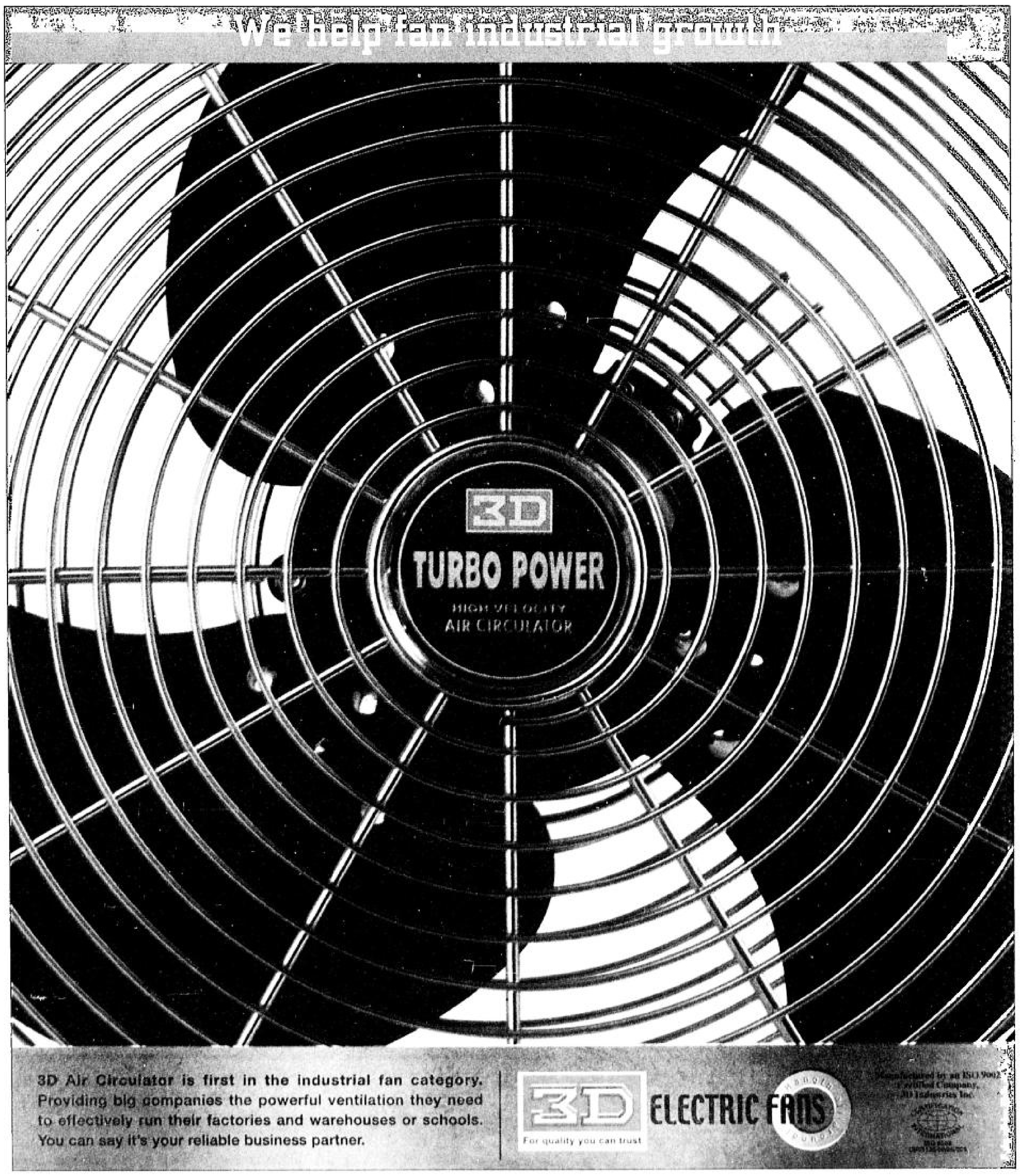

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# Graft, red tape pose more risk

SINGAPORE—The corporate world faces a much bigger risk from corruption and bureaucracy than it does from terrorism, according to an Economist Group assessment of threats to business profitability a year after the September 2001 terror attacks on the United States.

"Despite the stunning attacks of Sept. 11, bad government, not terrorism or security risk issues, is the biggest risk to business," the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) said in rating 60 countries across the globe.

On a scale of zero to 100, with zero the least risky score, the average rating for security risk was just 35 compared to 59 for the risk of government effectiveness.

"Although security risk can never be ignored, it tends to be highly concentrated in certain countries and even in specific regions within a country," said Merli Baroudi, the EIU director of risk services.

"By contrast, government effectiveness risk is rampant and generally affects most foreign companies' overseas operations, sometimes with very severe consequences for profitability." The quality of government was also reflected in two other categories which scored poorly—infrastructure risk at 51 percent and legal and regulatory risk at 49 percent.

"Where roads fail to get built, or utilities under-perform, corruption is often the problem," the EIU report said.

Baroudi said that by the very nature of government effectiveness risk, "many of its components, such as corruption, are covert".

Another aspect of government risk was the quality of the bureaucracy. Governments in emerging markets find it easier to pass new laws and introduce free-market regulations than to implement them effectively.

In Asia-Pacific, China, Indonesia and Pakistan were singled out as the countries where the government effectiveness risk ranked high. *AFP*

# WHO: Asian health care costs soaring

HEALTH care costs in Asia are ballooning, with poor families in some countries spending up to 30 percent of their meager household incomes on this key necessity, the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned.

The problem is compounded by the lack of financial protection schemes, such as health insurance, for low-income families.

"There is a general concern that health costs are increasing rapidly and resources are not being used efficiently and effectively," laments Shigeru Omi, regional director for the Manila-based WHO Western Pacific office. The office covers 37 countries in the East Asia and the Pacific region.

Escalation in health costs was among the concerns expressed by Omi in a report prepared for a five-day ministerial meeting of the WHO's regional governing body in Kyoto, Japan from Sept. 16.

Other concerns of the region included battling poverty-linked diseases and "lifestyle" ailments caused by unhealthy diets and physical inactivity and the rapidly-changing role of public health systems and services.

Omi said a leading cause for increase in health care costs in developed Asian nations was excessive use of high technology medical services.

In developing countries, the health care burden on the public becomes heavier in the absence of social protection, Omi said, estimating that "20 to 30 percent" of earnings of low-income families were channeled to health care, including purchasing drugs. *AFP*

# PDIC president seeks reversal of suspension

THE HEAD of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. has asked the Ombudsman's office to reverse an administrative order suspending him for simply clearing a "perfected contract" between two government agencies.

In a motion for reconsideration, PDIC president Norberto Nazareno said Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's order issued last July 22 suspending him for a month and a day was "anchored on the wrong factual premise and on a mistaken application of the laws."

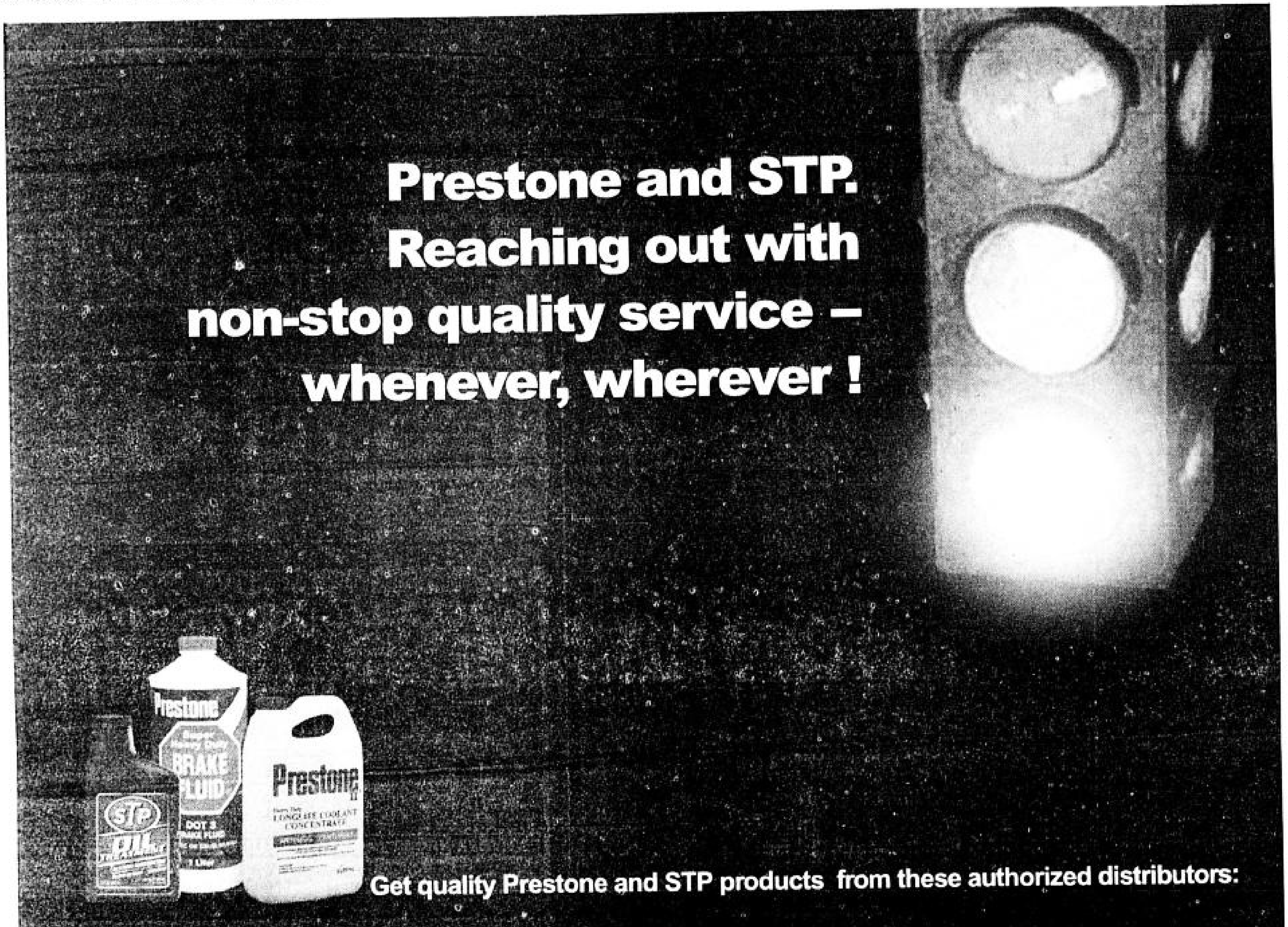
The case stems from the transfer of P562.5 million worth of promissory notes issued by the National Food Authority from Urban Bank Inc. to the Land Bank of the Philippines two years ago.

The Monetary Board ordered Urban Bank's closure in April 2000 and appointed the PDIC to act as receiver.

Desierto ruled last July that Nazareno overstepped his authority when he allowed the NFA to pay its debts to Landbank using the promissory notes it issued to Urban Bank.

In his motion, Nazareno said he "did not transgress nor deviate" from his authority as PDIC head when he did not object to the NFA's payment of its obligations to Landbank because Urban Bank no longer had any authority over the NFA's promissory notes.

He stressed that PDIC "had no legal right to disallow payments to Landbank." *Raul C. Dancel*



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# Sin taps Makati church

MANILA Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin declared the Our Lady of Guadalupe parish in Makati City an archdiocesan shrine for the unborn, the sick, the aging and the disabled during the commemoration of the Virgin Mary's birthday yesterday.

Sin urged the creation of social action programs for the poor and the disadvantaged to celebrate the Church's pro-life stance amid a culture of death.

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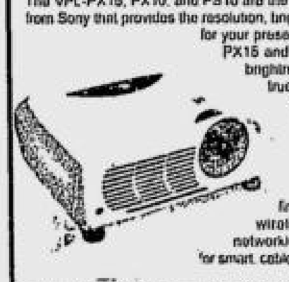

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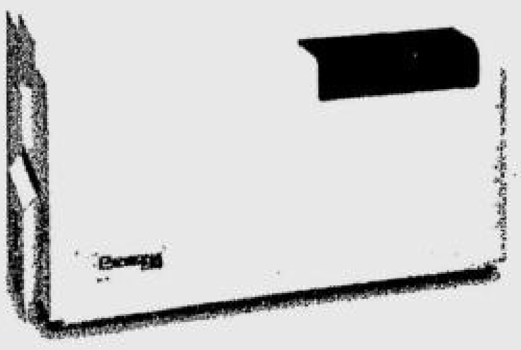

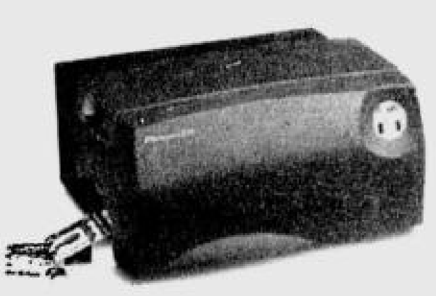

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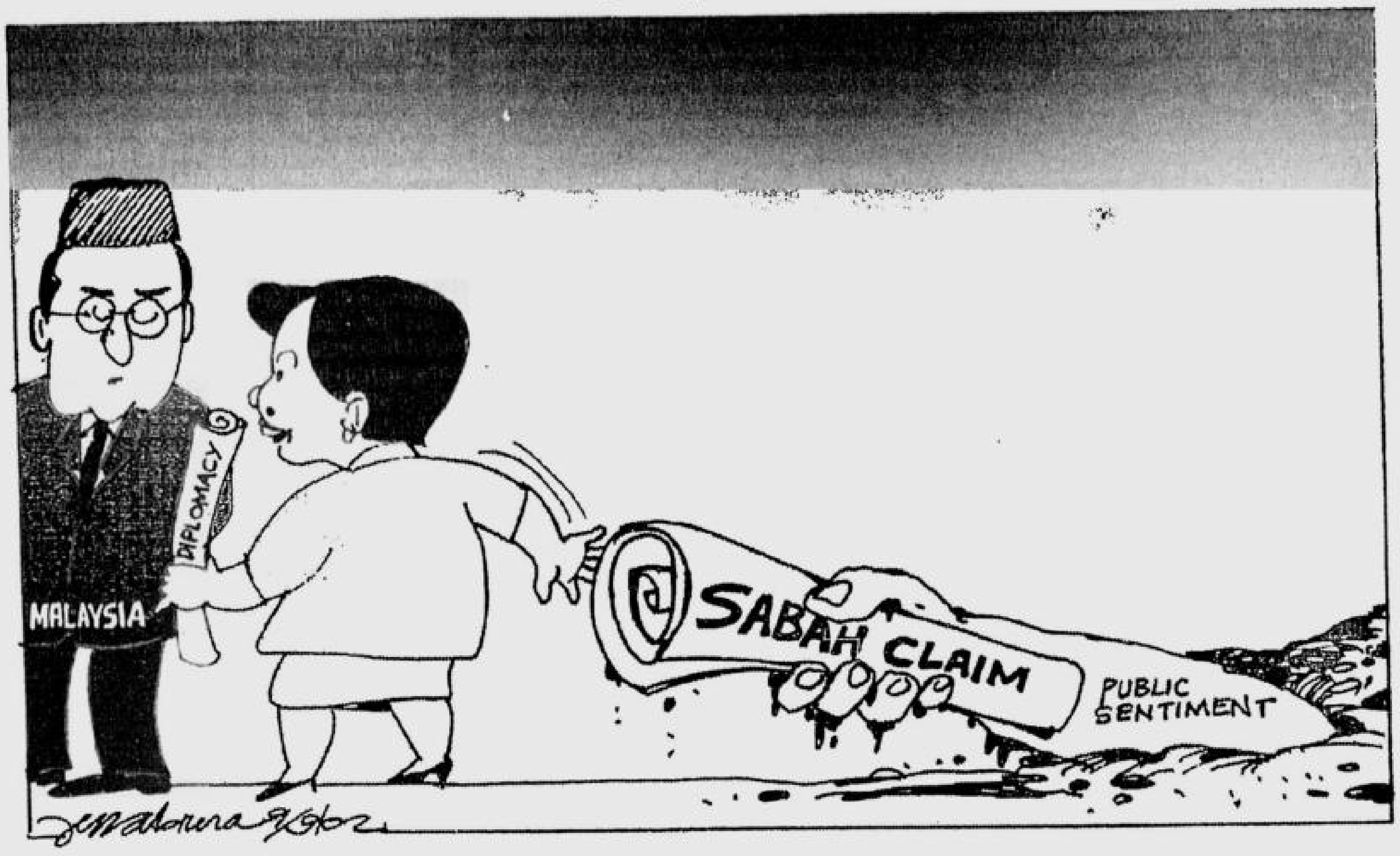

# Bottom-line questions

**EDITORIAL**

THE CONTROVERSY over the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3 project illustrates the physics of publicity: too much heat, not enough light. The flurry of press releases and paid advertisements from almost all sides in the hundred-million-dollar dispute has buried the issues under the use of blatantly selective facts, masterful innuendo and extensive name-calling.

The dispute is an old one. It was partly the reason why Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez resigned earlier this year. But last week the controversy found its way back to the front page, when Secretary Gloria Tan Climaco, the presidential adviser for strategic projects, told the Senate she was negotiating a buyout of the German partners in Philippine International Air Terminals Co., the project concessionaire. The trickle of press statements then turned into a flood.

(A piece of advice for press agents: Errors of fact are also mistakes in strategy. They give the game away. Last Thursday, for instance, press releases from at least two of the vocal anti-takeover congressmen and one from Piatco itself made reference to the "five-man" Cabinet review committee. This is wrong, of course; the top-level panel consists of seven Cabinet secretaries, including its chair Justice Secretary Hernando Perez. But while the same facts may appear in independent statements, the same error of fact can only appear in statements written by the same hand, or sharing the same mis-information. Two releases with the exact same error of fact may be coincidence; three is a conspiracy.)

The controversy is far from simple, but we believe it can be reduced to three key issues.

*Who are the parties involved?* If the Piatco spokesperson is to be believed, the dispute is merely a stockholders' squabble that turned ugly when its partners from Fraport AG ran crying to the government. He is of course mistaken. The construction and operation of the country's flagship gateway is not merely imbued but permeated with public interest. This does not mean, however, that Congress, which has already seen three House investigations and one Senate probe, is the best forum for defending this interest. If critics find certain provisions of the contract onerous, they are, as Piatco's chief legal counsel maintains, better off running to the courts.

But there is also the matter of equity and investment participation. The Cheng Yong group owns 60 percent of the company, but Fraport raised 80 percent of the project cost. It is also Climaco's position that Fraport actually has effective control of Piatco, because of its interests in Piatco affiliates. This puts the burden of responsibility squarely on Piatco to explain who its stockholders are, who owns which, and why its German partners felt their only recourse was to strike a deal with the government.

*Where did the money go?* The project has consumed a lot of money; unfortunately, nobody knows exactly how much. Climaco says $650 million; Piatco says $550 million; Fraport says it has for its part already invested $375 million. The only certainty is that the project has cost much more than it should have. Much needs to be explained, and it is incumbent on Piatco to do the explaining. The company can start with the strange case of the elusive consultant Alfonso Liongson, who earned $2.1 million in six months but cannot even be prevailed upon to testify at the Senate.

*Is the contract onerous?* It is not true to say, as opposition leader Sen. Edgardo Angara has said, that the Macapagal administration pointed to the allegedly onerous provisions only after the proposed buyout became public knowledge. A letter from Climaco already listed 28 such provisions—way back in March. The question is: Are these in fact onerous? Now that all parties have committed to cooperating with Perez's Cabinet committee, it should only be a matter of time before the public can have a satisfactory answer. This will lead to the most intriguing question of all: How did those provisions worm their way into the contract?

Angara is right in an important sense; the times call for less government intervention in business. But our laws do provide for exceptions, and the Piatco contract, as it stands now, is clearly one of them. If it's broke, the government should fix it—first, by asking the bottom-line questions.

# Is a live Abu Sabaya coming to Manila?

## As I See It

*Neal H. Cruz*

ABU Sabaya is alive and well. I got a message from him recently and he is coming to Manila and will allow himself to be interviewed and photographed by media just to prove that he is very much alive and kicking. But he wants a government guarantee that he won't be shot or arrested while in Manila. Fair is fair; wait until he gets back to Mindanao and then the chase can resume.

The Abu Sayyaf spokesperson is saddened and angered by reports of his untimely demise just so P3 million of the people's money can be paid as bounty for his body. There is no body, dead or alive, but the reward was paid anyway. If he shows up alive, Sabaya asked, will the reward money be returned?

Anyway, we plan to interview him at the Kapihan sa Manila—if he ever makes it to Manila alive. Sabaya says he prefers the Kapihan sa Manila because it is objective. Wait for further announcements.

* * *

If you are wondering why First Gentleman Mike Arroyo is so silent these days, it is because he isn't here. He is hibernating in the United States. He has taken the advice of this corner to disappear, get lost, blend into the woodwork, become invisible just like that paragon of all first gentlemen, Dennis Thatcher, the ever-loving hubby of then British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

It is sporting of FG Mike to hightail it to the United States so he wouldn't be a burden to his ever-loving wife. He must have realized that while here, he acts like a magnet attracting all the suspicions and criticisms against the President. And there is no truth to the rumor that he went to the United States to duck suspicions that he is behind the planned takeover of Terminal 3 by the government.

As for presidential son Mikey Arroyo, he is busy preparing for the arrival of his first baby. His mother, he said, is tickled pink that she is going to have a grandchild.

Asked what her mom prefers, a boy or a girl, Mikey replied that she prefers a boy but that she won't be disappointed with a girl.

But while Mikey is awaiting new life at home, he is working for the dead in his native Pampanga where he is vice governor. He has asked the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to authorize the provincial government to subsidize part of the funeral expenses of indigent families in Pampanga. It seems Mikey is upset by the hundreds of poor families who go to his office every week seeking assistance for medical and burial expenses for family members.

"The provincial government has more than enough funds at the moment to provide better social services to its constituents," Mikey said, mentioning Pampanga's earnings from fees from the multibillion-quarry operations here.

Quite apt, isn't it? What has been earned digging up the countryside will be returned to bury the dead in it. What is not apt is that the burial subsidy is an offshoot of the Mikey Against Poverty (MAP) project launched last year. Its main objective is "to improve living conditions of poor Kapampangans." But this subsidy is not for the living but for the dead.

* * *

In the dispensation of justice, it goes without saying that only the guilty should be punished. In a conspiracy, the Supreme Court ruled that "guilt must be premised on a more knowing, personal and deliberate participation of each individual who is charged with others as part of a conspiracy. There must be more convincing proof which in this case is wanting. The Sandiganbayan's finding of guilt is merely based on speculations and conjectures which does not pass the test of moral certainty." (Pareño v. Sandiganbayan, 256 SCRA 243, 272 [1996])

That is why it appears that the inclusion of Undersecretaries Edmundo Mir and Mabini Pablo in the multimillion Department of Public Works and Highway vehicle scam appear to be overacting. They had no knowledge nor participation in the scam. They have no signatures in any of the documents. They were not required to by official orders and guidelines. The flow chart does not include them in the processing of the papers.

But "command responsibility" is a much-abused term and in this case is being used like a shotgun.

The administrative charges against the two of "gross neglect of duty and conduct prejudicial to the interest of the service" was merely presumed on the basis of their being the superiors of persons allegedly involved in the anomalous repairs of DPWH vehicles and equipment.

But the revised guidelines in Department Order 33 and its revisions all clearly show that their "participation, intervention, signature, discretion or approval in the transactions are not mandated or necessary in any manner." Moreover, orders delegating authority empower assistant secretaries, directors, service chiefs and other officials to exercise discretion and unilaterally approve procurement of supplies, materials, equipment, spare parts and other non-personal services up to P1 million, "without the necessity of requiring any higher officer to review or approve such disbursements."

All guilty parties in any crime must be punished but care should be taken so that innocent ones are not hit by the shotgun blast.

# Sum of all fears

## There's the Rub

*Conrado de Quiros*

A YEAR later, sobriety is kicking in.

A survey made by the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations and the German Marshall Fund of the United States shows 55 percent of Europeans believe US foreign policy is partly to blame for 9/11. The survey, called Worldviews 2002, is one of the most massive surveys ever made, polling 9,000 Europeans and Americans. The AFP report on our World page last Thursday did not say how many percent of Americans felt the same way. It did say however that only one-fifth of the sample thought George Bush was doing a good job in handling the Arab-Israeli conflict and the standoff with Iraq.

Considering that it was an American-made survey, its results are remarkable. A European-made one would probably have produced a higher figure among those who thought US foreign policy in part provoked 9/11, to go by the bitter debates and furious rallies in various parts of Europe. Indeed, to go by the drift of talk in BBC. It would be interesting to see the results of a survey of Asians, Africans and Latin Americans, the people who have felt the brunt of that US policy in the persons of Suharto, Idi Amin and Pinochet. Particularly on the subject of how Bush is making the world safe for democracy.

It helps to see the world with more 20-20 vision. Or put more color into it after its black-and-white rendering with 9/11. The message America has been beaming to the world since 9/11 is that it has been the hapless and helpless victim of a group of powerful ruffians who are out to establish a reign of terror in the world, and will do so unless they are checked. The image is not unlike that of "High Noon," where Gary Cooper, harassed by a gang of vengeful gunslingers and abandoned by his neighbors, is forced to pin on his badge, go it alone and meet the threat. By dint of grit and no mean skill with the gun, he will of course overpower his enemies.

The reality is quite different. As Joseph Gerson shows in a paper entitled "The Politics and Geopolitics of 'Missile Defenses,'" America's role in the world before and after 9/11 is not a case of a Western marshal facing up to overwhelming odds out of a need to defend himself and his town. It is neither helpless nor is it armed for defense. The only thing it has in common with Gary Cooper is that it's going it alone.

Over the past decade, US military spending has equaled that of the next nine biggest military spenders **combined**. That's an awesome statistic, which belies the notion that the whole arsenal is meant for defense—or at least the defense of home and hearth. The US military strategy unfolded by Bush in his "Star Wars" speech on May 1 last year, more than four months before 9/11, and currently being implemented by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, marks a shift in strategy from a reliance on ground forces to navy, air and the weaponization of space. The whole strategy is meant not just to allow the United States to fight simultaneous wars on any part of the globe but to give the United States "the military capability to act at any time, anywhere, in defense of what it sees as its global interests."

Those interests were spelled out clearly by Bush's predecessor, Bill Clinton, before the AFL-CIO biennial convention: "We have 4 percent of the world's population, and we want to keep 22 percent of the world's wealth."

The plan, moreover, envisions the United States aggressively stockpiling more missiles, in contravention of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, belying the notion of defense, particularly with the "Evil Empire," the Soviet Union, gone. Well before 9/11, Clinton's CIA chief John Deutch assured his audience in MIT that the United States "never intended, nor does it now intend to implement" the non-proliferation treaty. American concessions there, he said, were just things one said to get out of a conference.

Gerson: "Only one nation—the US—has ever crossed the moral and legal boundary of launching a nuclear attack against human beings. Yet, on more than 20 occasions since the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, and *at least five times since the end of the Cold War*, US presidents have prepared to initiate nuclear war, during international crises and wars. Daniel Elsberg, who played a major role in designing US Cold War nuclear strategy, explains that US presidents use nuclear weapons 'in the way that you use a gun when you point it at someone's head in a confrontation...whether or not you pull the trigger.'"

How long the finger will remain frozen on the trigger is anybody's guess. What it does show is that the image of a hapless and helpless victim that 9/11 has carved for America is not something the rest of us, who are looking at the wrong end of its weapons, can buy indefinitely. Hence, the results of the Worldviews survey, which is just the beginning. Indeed, what it does show is that our whole understanding of morality in this world is based not on any known or reasonable political tenet but on faith. The faith that with all those bombs capable of annihilating the world a thousand times over residing in the hands of America, the world is safe. We can all sleep the sleep of the just.

George Bush, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld do not exactly inspire confidence there. In fact, they look every inch like living embodiments of the characters the late great Stanley Kubrick caricatured brilliantly in his anti-war films, chief of them "Dr. Strangelove, Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb." What should scare the living daylights out of us is not a small nuclear bomb that's missing, and which could probably be in wayward hands. It's all those huge nuclear bombs that are very much visible in the hands of these three gentlemen.

That is the sum of all our fears.

* * *

*Comments to dequiros@vasia.com*

# GMA in same boat as Timor's PM

**POLITICAL TIDBITS**

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

A RECENT visitor to Manila was Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri of the world's baby democracy, East Timor, who was on a private visit, bringing along his finance minister, Madalena Boavida and his chief of staff. He had a private dinner with President Macapagal-Arroyo at Malacañang and was also entertained by Speaker Jose de Venecia at a dinner, followed by a business lunch with officials of the Philippine National Oil Co. after talks on mutual oil exploration. A short-bearded fellow with an agile mind, the PM was in exile in Mozambique and later Portugal throughout the 25-year occupation of his country by Indonesia, earning his law degree in Mozambique and returning to East Timor after the referendum of 1999. Today Alkatiri is the only Muslim official in President Xanana Gusmao's predominantly Christian Cabinet.

* * *

As he related to this columnist, as PM he runs the day-to-day affairs of East Timor, leaving President Gusmao to travel the length and breadth of the country, rallying his people to help rebuild their country from the ashes of war and solve the problems of massive unemployment, the lack of basic services, building up the people's resources, etc. The PM pointed out that Gusmao's long unflinching fight for Timorese independence, which led to his long imprisonment in Jakarta, has given him the moral authority that his job as father of his country entails. As I listened to him I wondered whether things might have worked better if Cory Aquino could have done a la Gusmao, serve as a rallying icon in those six years of hers, while a PM better prepared than she could have run her government's day to day operations.

* * *

I learned that during the dinner with President Macapagal, the Timorese PM told her that his major problem is how to deliver on all the expectations of his people—they think he is a magician who could instantly wipe out all their problems. To which GMA was said to have sympathetically replied that she is in the same boat—the Filipinos expect her to be Superwoman. One problem they don't share, though, is the foreign debt: East Timor enviably has no foreign debt as funds from abroad come in the form of aid at this time; whereas borrowings of the Philippine government have run into P190 billion and keep growing, just to counter the burgeoning budget deficit.

* * *

President Macapagal's stance, as enunciated by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, that she prefers to leave the resolution of Piatco's problems to its investors as they are its "internal affair," is most reassuring to the foreign and local business. Lately the businessmen have become very nervous with presidential adviser Gloria Tan Climaco's interpretation of the BOT Law as "Build-Operate-Take over." Of course, since the Naia 3 terminal is a public utility, the government is expected to protect the people's interest, so the President has constituted a special panel, chaired by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, to review Piatco's BOT contract, to see if there are onerous provisions there.

Perez, taking his cue from her, has reassured Piatco that there will be no cancellation of its contract or takeover by the government, but a renegotiation of violations or onerous provisions, if there are any. This indicates that Perez is approaching his task with an open mind, unlike Climaco. In other words, as a prominent lawyer noted, Perez realizes the need to project to the business community that this government cares about the stability of contracts, especially since these are consensual transactions, and justifying the expectations of all the parties, including the Filipino people. With regard to the renegotiation, this lawyer summed it up, "why burn down a whole house when it calls only for repairs in one or two areas?"

* * *

Piatco president Cheng Yong has lauded the administration's "investment-friendly" stance and declared his firm's readiness to cooperate with it. A number of media commentators have stressed the need for a quick resolution of the impasse, in order to minimize the damage of Climaco's disastrous moves in the business community. This cannot be overstressed. The Perez committee should look at that contract once and for all and resolve those provisions deemed disadvantageous, and get on with finishing that state-of-the-art airport and operating it, to replace Naia 1 for international flights. Let's make that a final renegotiation, please.

By the way, I agree with the clamor to get Climaco out of the Perez committee. She created the current problem, she shouldn't sit in its investigation.

* * *

As for the side scandal involving the P100 million paid out to Piatco consultant Alfonso Liongson for "PR jobs," as admitted by Cheng Yong in last Friday's Senate joint committee hearing, this administration now probably realizes that it is to its every advantage to finish the investigations, including the Liongson issue. Sen. Serge Osmeña was doubtless correct when he opined that the gargantuan amount paid to Liongson couldn't have all gone to the media, but that much of it went to "influence-peddling." Like the proverbial Chinaman who is the favorite *kotong* target of the police and the BIR, Piatco has been milked by so many vested groups in various administrations since Ramos' time. It's noteworthy, however, that the Liongson "contract" was consummated during the Macapagal administration's first year, when Piatco was besieged by an escalation of attacks from all corners, including Congress and the media, etc. Those funds might have gone to payoffs of critics as well as administration people, and one can hardly blame Piatco for trying to protect its investments running into hundreds of millions of dollars. Probing the Liongson contract could bring out skeletons in this administration.

# Conspiracy of ignorance

**KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO**

*Noralyn Mustafa*

LAST week's "I-witness" was one of the best episodes Howie Severino has produced. I wish GMA will replay it because for about half of the program, we here in Jolo were deprived of the audio (somebody in UP Visayas in Iloilo texted me to watch it while I was already watching it, and there was sound on his TV set, none on mine).

Nonetheless, the images were overwhelming, and though silent, were enough to open the floodgates of memory, assaulted in most parts by the inevitable sense of loss that anyone who went through "Dekada Setenta" must always feel at remembering.

That sense of loss cuts more deeply when one has to confront the question: What has been gained from that loss?

Or, learning from Wordsworth (remember how everyone was quoting him after Warren Beatty and Natalie Wood starred in "Splendor in the Grass"?) should we instead "grieve not, rather find strength in what remains behind"?

Seeing all that we have to contend with today, it would seem that nothing is left but the shards of that idealism that had driven us on—ah, how audacious it seems now—to change the world, or at the very least, "to make a difference."

But there was one image, albeit fleeting, that struck me in particular. The Modigliani-like painting on the wall in the "inner room" of Virgie Moreno's Los Indios Bravos, illumined only by the "black light," was witness to many discourses on topics that spanned just about everything from the mundane to the sublime.

And out of Howie's camera range was the figure of the other lady, half-lying down, doing her own thing, oblivious to our attempts at "intellectualism."

It was underneath her, at the corner table, that we concocted the term "conspiracy of ignorance." We were typical of our generation, unafraid of big words and the big ideas they held, always striving to invent phrases and jargon to express what we meant when the "present order" failed to supply them.

I recall distinctly it was that night when we went to Indios just to see Medalla's bubble machines, our curiosity heightened by all that media hype about them, only to face two aesthetically unappealing structures that stood almost reaching the ceiling of the mezzanine, our attention distracted by the remains of the artist's day—leftovers of his breakfast, lunch and dinner strewn around on plates that had not been cleared away.

And then, on our way down the stairs, she, the most free among us spirits struggling to be, blurted out, as usual, that the emperor had no clothes.

"What's so art-shaking about melted detergent? My kid brother can blow better bubbles, and when he does it against the sunset, you have the most magnificent kaleidoscope!"

We dared not disagree, and thereupon decided to go to the inner room and reflect on the topic that just cropped up unbidden; our gullibility, the "bandwagon" mentality with which advertisers never failed to dupe us, how media could easily manipulate our system of beliefs.

"Just think, we expose ourselves to toxic fumes using those spray nets just because the beauty parlor fags dictate we look more human with brushed-up hair."

"Yeah, and I saw you pretending to be awed by those bubble machines. You should have seen how funny you looked."

It was at that point, I recall, that the discussion turned serious.

"But there's something worse than believing all the information you get. It is not being able to tell the difference because of lack of information, or even none at all."

And we went on to wonder how could the masses who had very little, if any, access to information, evaluate, analyze, assess situations and persons responsible for them? How, for example, could they be critical of the bureaucracy, question policies of government, vote rationally, aspire for a better life?

But the most crucial question we grappled with was how this sorry scheme of things could be perpetuated in that time and age (there were no computers then).

Before we got blinded by the black light (it was actually deep purple), we were able to identify the culprit: poverty and its concomitant factors. Mediocre schools that graduated mediocre teachers who inflicted their mediocrity on poor students, the clergy (of all religious) traditionally opposed to knowledge that could challenge dogma, and worst of all, politicians, most of whom depended on an uninformed electorate to perpetuate their hold on power.

Reduced to specific terms, there was the congressman whose children attended expensive private schools, speaking at graduation ceremonies bewailing the poor standard of education and announcing that he had just donated a number of books to the school which ended up in the homes of the principal and the faculty.

Finally, in a moment of pure enlightenment, we came upon the term "conspiracy of ignorance" to describe this deplorable situation and clung to that bit of brilliance as though we had just achieved satori. (Oh yes, we strained to hear the sound of one hand clapping even as we hitched a ride with Jack Keroac on the road, while clutching copies of Simone de Beauvoir and Ayn Rand, all to the beat of the Beatles and Bacharach.)

It was a conspiracy, we said then, that was zealously guarded by its perpetrators—the rich and the powerful—because their very existence depended on it. This conspiracy had to be defied and ultimately, destroyed.

And that, generation X, Y, or whatever, was really what, more than the beads and the bell bottoms, "Dekada Setenta" was all about.

# Nationalism and the Filipino diaspora

**COMMENTARY**

*Dean Jorge Bocobo*

WORDS are like icebergs. We use them, unconscious of their secret histories through a myriad of human lives in which they are forged, and the seas of time by which they come to us, fully formed.

"Diaspora" is such a word, taken over unchanged from the Greek. It was first applied to Jews who were scattered to the winds when Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian, in the 6th Century BC, destroyed the first temple of Israel, which Solomon, son of David built. The hanging gardens of Babylon, 90 kilometers from modern Baghdad may have once been tended by OJWs (overseas Jewish workers), or designed and built by them. (Who knows, maybe now Saddam Hussein is making atom bombs there? )

Now "diaspora" applies to millions of Filipinos, dispersed by poverty and injustice from their own land to every corner of the planet. Estimates say that up to eight million Filipinos, (one in 10 out of 80 million) work or live abroad. Their experiences as émigrés are largely invisible and often ignored by the society they have departed, almost as if they had died. We see only the sharpest promontories of our countrymen's migrations into every corner of the global arena. In the Middle East, Filipina caregivers are blown up by Palestinian suicide bombers. In Malaysia, they are expelled en masse and maltreated. On sailing vessels they are sometimes sacrificed to the greed of others.

But lest we get the wrong picture from focusing on the sensational news, let us remember that for the most part, Filipinos are building quietly successful lives in every country around the world, in America, Europe, Asia and elsewhere. If not for the billions of dollars they annually repatriate to their relatives on this sinking ship of an archipelago, it would have long ago vanished beneath the waves of plundering politicians and crooked judges, the locusts of these anti-biblical times.

In the United States, the contingent of three million Filipinos (plus a million or so undocumented tourists) living the American Dream, are led by a highly successful upper crust of doctors, nurses, teachers, lawyers, dentists and other highly remunerated professionals—the result of 50 years of continuous emigration to America by the best educated, highly trained Filipinos. Most Filipino-Americans, irrespective of profession, are pillars of their communities and valued members of society at large. That was not always so. Like other people who have come before them, like the Africans of slavery, the Filipino-Americans had to fight years of discrimination to win their place at the table.

Now, these millions of Filipinos in America represent substantial economic and political power, which is growing as their numbers increase. A large number of them have converted to American citizenship, and are raising Americans, not Filipinos as children. They would seem to be lost to this nation on the other side of the world, which they left, but have perhaps never forgotten.

The proposal to grant "dual citizenship" to such Filipinos who have adopted citizenship in other nations, could have profound political and economic implications.

Never mind the problem of how to conduct elections.

Consider that the legal ownership of land and other pieces of property here in the Philippines by Filipinos abroad could result in a substantial flow of "foreign direct investment" by them back to the homeland. It would be an ironic twist. This would be a modern-day reincarnation of the much-reviled Parity Amendment that a victorious America imposed on the Philippines after World War II. That amendment allowed American citizens to own land and exploit the national patrimony as if they were Filipino citizens. The proposed legislation would allow American citizens, if they were previously Filipino citizens, to reacquire the benefits of Filipino citizenship.

If the proposal passes, I think that we will be pleasantly surprised at how much the landscape can be powerfully and rapidly transformed by tens of thousands of sentimental Filipino surgeons and rich dentists from all over America, eager to remake the old home town. It might also attract the curiosity of all those legions of second generation Filipinos in America, young men and women with idealism and the powers of freedom.

I think such legislation is important to the future of the country and should be passed if we don't want to lose forever the real investments made in educating and raising citizens who leave for one reason or another and become citizens of other countries.

The modern Filipino diaspora is also a challenge to our purest concepts of nationalism. Especially with respect to America, what are we to make of the simple fact that all those millions of Filipinos are, for all practical purposes, Americans? We were wrong if we thought our special relationship with America had ended when the bases were kicked out. How could we forget the bond of a million Filipino families now in America?

This week the world commemorates the first defining moment of the 21st century—the century in which we shall be spending the rest of our lives. It is fitting that most Filipinos, stand with Americans, stand with what is right and against what is wrong in the world. America is in the heart, as Carlos Bulosan once said, and it doesn't have to have anything to do with George W. Bush or any particular American government or official. For America is more than a continent or a superpower. It is actually the resolve that Abe Lincoln expressed in the Gettysburg address, to be read at Ground Zero this week, that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from this earth.

* * *

*Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com*

# Digital photography

**READERS' ADVOCATE**

*Raul J. Palabrica*

THANKS to digital photography, it's a lot easier now for photojournalists to retouch, sharpen or adjust their shots to meet the photo requirements of their newspapers.

Backgrounds can be downplayed to highlight certain parts of the photo. The items in a picture that may distract the readers' attention can be removed at the flick of a finger without affecting its overall quality.

Best of all, digital photos can be sent by e-mail or Internet from the photo site to the newsroom without affecting their artistic integrity. This allows the newspapers to support breaking news reports with photos from the field.

A reader, Fausto de Guzman from Seattle, Washington, USA, sent an e-mail to this column requesting clarification about the INQUIRER's policy on the use of digital photos. He wrote: "I have noticed an alarming trend with how the INQUIRER has approached photos printed on the front page. More of your cover photos have been digitally altered (look at the cover photo of your Sept. 2 edition as an example).

"Either to blur areas, make some areas black and white, pump up colors and collaged (to make people who oppose each other appear to be next to each other), changes a less savvy reader might miss. It is industry standard to edit, crop and sometimes run color corrections on digital photos.

"I believe the INQUIRER is running a little loose with this process. The result is a diminished photojournalism integrity that affects the paper as a whole. What is the INQUIRER's policy regarding digital manipulation of its photos?"

The Sept. 2 front-page photo referred to by the reader shows smiling children of undocumented Filipinos in Sabah, Malaysia, moving around the burnt remains of their houses. Smoke can be seen rising from a distance.

The photo caption reads "Children of illegal Filipino migrants manage to smile in spite of what happened to their houses along the shore of Sandakan, Sabah. Malaysian authorities razed the houses of the migrants to force them to leave."

### Genuine shots

The INQUIRER's art director was quick to deny the reader's statement that the subject photo was digitally altered. She said what was published was exactly the on-the-spot shot taken by the newspaper's photographer. No alterations or adjustments were made on it.

The art director opined that the reader may have thought that the hazy background was a product of digital manipulation to make the children stand out. She explained that the fading gray tint at the background is its real color.

Responding to the reader's query on the INQUIRER's policy on digital manipulation of photos, she emphatically stated that the newspaper does NOT tamper with its pictures. All the pictures the readers see in the newspaper are genuine or authentic. The photographers are under strict instructions not to modify or alter their photographs.

While it is true that photos are sometimes "cropped" (meaning some of the photo subjects are not included in the final copy), that is resorted to only if there is limited space on the page where the picture is supposed to appear. In these instances, the editors see to it that the essential characters in the photo remain within the picture range.

I have no reason to doubt the art director's declaration that the newspaper does not digitally manipulate its photos.

### Readers' trust

The facility by which digital photos can be modified or altered can tempt editors into playing around with news photos. With the use of the right camera gadgets, an obscure part of a picture can be magnified to make it a dominant figure. Someone who's nowhere near the scene shown in the picture can be made to appear as right there. An otherwise plain-looking person can be made to look sinister by adding some dark tint at certain parts of his face.

Many years back, the international magazine Time was criticized by its readers for publishing an obviously darkened face of American football icon O.J. Simpson, who was then under trial for the slaying of his wife and her alleged boyfriend, to make him look "criminal."

And there is this practice of unscrupulous photographers of superimposing the head of a popular movie or social personality on the naked body of some unknown person. The artwork is so good that voyeurs do not mind paying good money to get hold of those pictures.

Manipulating digital photos puts at risk the credibility of a newspaper. The saying "pictures don't lie" remains one of the cornerstones of the readers' trust in the print media. The public expects the newspapers to report the events as they happen and the accompanying photos, if any, to truthfully show what really happened.

Simply stated, if the readers cannot trust the newspaper's photos, then its news reports are similarly unworthy of trust or belief.

Come to think of it, except for the format, there is really no difference between news reports and photos. Both give information about their subjects. News does it in editorial or written form, while photos do it through film imagery or reproduction.

That being the case, it is only fair that photos be subjected to the same rules of accuracy and truthfulness that apply to the news. A deliberately distorted picture could in fact cause more damage to a person's reputation than defamatory words.

To the inexperienced eye (and that applies to most readers), a digitally manipulated photo could pass unnoticed. Alterations in the contents of the picture can be done with such precision that no one, except those in the know, would notice the forgery.

Even photography experts may not easily spot the difference unless they use the right magnifying glass or filter that would expose minute flaws in the shade of the colors or consistency in the shapes of the subjects of the photo.

A newspaper may be able to get away with one, two or three cases of photo manipulation. But, sooner or later, a reader will discover it and complain. When word goes around about a newspaper's disregard of the elementary rules of accuracy and truthfulness in the publication of its pictures, its credibility will inevitably suffer. That would be the worst thing that can happen to a newspaper.

* * *

*The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.*

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# Has GMA changed her regard for the poor?

LETTERS

WE write to tell of our deep concern for the poor people who are driven from their vending places, though the government gives them no place to go. They are suddenly without income. We are also concerned about the 30,000 poor families who will be evicted from the banks of the Pasig River and other waterways for a 10-meter easement that makes little sense and for flood control.

Like all citizens we want a cleaner, safer, healthier city, but not one built on the sacrifices of the poor. Why can't the passion for clearing sidewalks and riverbanks also be used to help the poor?

We are, however, most of all concerned about what these actions mean for President Macapagal-Arroyo's relationship with the poor. Is Bayani Fernando a symbol of how she will deal with the urban poor in the future? Has she changed her approach from one that favored poor people to one that treats them like so much trash? Does she want him to break the loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank that promised security and a decent living place for families on the banks of the Pasig River? She told us on Jan. 31 at the National Government Center and later on June 25 in Malacañang that she was opposed to distant relocation. Has she changed her mind? Does she now support the distant relocation Fernando proposes, though it takes five years for poor families to recover economically from such a relocation, and people relocated in 1999-2000 still lack water, classrooms and health facilities?

Please tell us how she stands so we will know how to respond.

**—FRANCIA C. CLAVECILLAS, COPE Foundation, MA. FIDES F. BAGASAO, CO Multiversity, ALICIA GENTOLIA-MURPHY, Urban Poor Associates, 28-B Matino St., Sikatuna Village, Barangay Malaya, 1101 Quezon City**

# Laws clear on coco levy fund use

THIS has reference to the letter of Oscar R. Santos of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement (COIR) on Sept. 2, taking exception to the suggestion of Speaker Jose de Venecia that the levy fund could be used to help narrow the fiscal deficit and possibly avoid delays in the public works program.

Santos and his group wanted the levy fund to be declared as a public fund by the Sandiganbayan or by the Supreme Court.

The suggestion of the Speaker is premised on the assumption that the Court will finally declare the levy collections as a public fund thus, it would belong to the government and form part of the general fund which could only be disbursed by Congress through appropriation measures.

This is the danger of the levy fund being declared as a public fund. Congress will dip its fingers into it and in just a matter of days the fund would disappear into a flurry of disguises.

As a matter of fact, De Venecia has already in mind using the levy fund for purposes other than the interests of the coconut industry and the coconut farmers.

I fully agree with Santos that the levy fund is for the benefit of the coconut farmers. The policy of our government as implemented in the law, the Coconut Industry Stabilization Fund (CISF) is owned by the coconut farmers "in their private capacities" as per Section 5, Article III, PD 1468. The beneficiaries are also the coconut farmers, for the fund is utilized for socio-economic and development programs for the benefit of the coconut farmers per Section 2, Article III, P. D. 1468.

The CISF is, however, paid by and collected from the copra exporters, oil millers, refiners, dessicators and other end-users of copra and its equivalent in other coconut products per Section 1, Article III, PD 1468.

Santos and his group should know that the real enemy of the coconut farmers is the government itself which is interested in getting the levy fund from the legitimate owners.

**—JOSE T. MARCHAN, president, Coco-Industry Rationalization Movement Inc., Samio Building, Paco, Manila**

# Why abolish the National Printing Office?

THE PHILIPPINES with its goal to attain global competitiveness acceded to GATT or the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade on Jan. 1, 1980.

A series of talks about GATT was held in various countries around the world from 1947 to date. From 23 in 1947, GATT membership has grown to more than 120. The Uruguay Round, the eighth and most ambitious, was launched in September 1986 and concluded in December 1993. This was transformed into a single, formal and permanent institution known as the World Trade Organization. The new organization has the institutional strength to enforce rules and discipline among WTO members.

The Philippine government said that a rejection of the GATT-UR Final Act and nonmembership in the WTO would have adverse effects on our agricultural and industrial exports, among others. There will be a tremendous decline in total employment which is estimated to be between 2.55 and 2.66 million jobs (excluding yearly entrants to the labor force of around 750,000).

In the agricultural sector, job loss is estimated to be around 1.98 million per annum, while that for the industrial sector is projected at around 0.68 million.

The government projection proves otherwise, our accession to GATT-WTO resulted in devastating effects on our economy. And in order to recover from a soaring budget deficit, instead of chasing grafters in the bureaucracy and big-time tax evaders, it opted for the abolition of 14 agencies, including the National Printing Office, an earning agency under the Office of the Press Secretary.

If there is something anomalous in the office, the right move is not abolition but removal of those in power who manipulate the administration.

Thousands of employees are about to lose their jobs. What a contradiction to what the President spoke of in her State of the Nation Address.

**—JOSEFINO S. BISDA, National Printing Office, Edsa corner NIA Northside Road, Diliman, Quezon City**

# Pre-need firms followed accounting rules

THIS is regarding Elena Torrijos' article last Aug. 20, titled "SEC records show 18 erring pre-need firms." Put simply, it was very unfair for the following reasons:

1. All the companies are moving to follow the PNUCA which by the way was finalized only on Sept. 21, 2001 and not in 1999. It was only then that the issue of commission deferral was settled in the Consolidated Rules. It is therefore improper to associate our industry with Enron and impute a willful desire to disregard accounting rules.

As the writer knows, we have been continuously changing and improving the rules since 1999 and sometimes these changes are not so clear on the specifics. Nevertheless all companies are following the PNUCA.

2. Torrijos likewise wrote that 26 companies were not following the new Investment Mix. This is very inaccurate.

Firstly the Investment Mix was discussed around year 2000 and again finalized in the Consolidated Rules of Sept. 21, 2001. Since that time all companies have followed it prospectively.

As to investments prior to the implementation of the new rules, there is a transition period for this. While we have the desire and willingness to follow it, it is not so easy to sell assets today. I think this is common knowledge and you can ask our trustee banks that we are all trying.

The transition is very short. Other countries allow for a five-year transition but the SEC only provided for a seven-month transition more or less. However after review the SEC extended it to December of this year.

To therefore label the companies as erring is wrong.

There can be no errant companies with respect to real estate investment as the timeline is still current.

The SEC also provided a formula in case the mix is not yet met after December which we deem very wise as it is a win-win formula.

Torrijos kept representing our pre-need members as "erring in advance," and it hurts because we are doing our best to improve the industry and to take care of our clients.

I inquired from the SEC because her chart indicate that it was her source. I was told the chart used was not an official or proper chart. While the chart was correct, the label attached "Erring Pre-Need Companies" was not part of the report.

**—JUAN MIGUEL MADRIGAL-VAZQUEZ, president, Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Plan Companies Inc. c/o Permanent Plans Inc., 9/F Madrigal Bldg., Makati City**

*THE STATEMENTS of Juan Miguel Madrigal-Vazquez regarding the PNUCA suggest that the accounting standard specific to the industry was not required until 2001. The head of the SEC's nontraditional securities and instruments department, Director Emil Aquino, informed SEC Chair Lilia Bautista in a recent press conference that the PNUCA has been required for financial statements of pre-need companies starting from 1999 although changes were made along the way until the SEC came out with its Consolidated Rules in September 2001. It must be stressed that the SEC required that the PNUCA be followed all the time. Pre-need companies that do not comply with the PNUCA are deemed to not have submitted any financial statements and are subject to the penalties for non-filing.*

*The presentation of the investment mix may have been inaccurate but this was not my fault. When I wrote my story I never used the word "erring." The word was inserted into the chart I faxed to the INQUIRER.*

*The headline of the story saying there were 18 erring pre-need companies can be considered accurate because these companies did not comply with the SEC's rules for the PNUCA. To be very clear, the 18 companies being referred to were those that did not comply with the PNUCA, not the investment mix since they have up to the end of the year to comply.*

*Except for the title of the chart, there was no representation that the pre-need companies were "erring in advance."*—**ELENA TORRIJOS**

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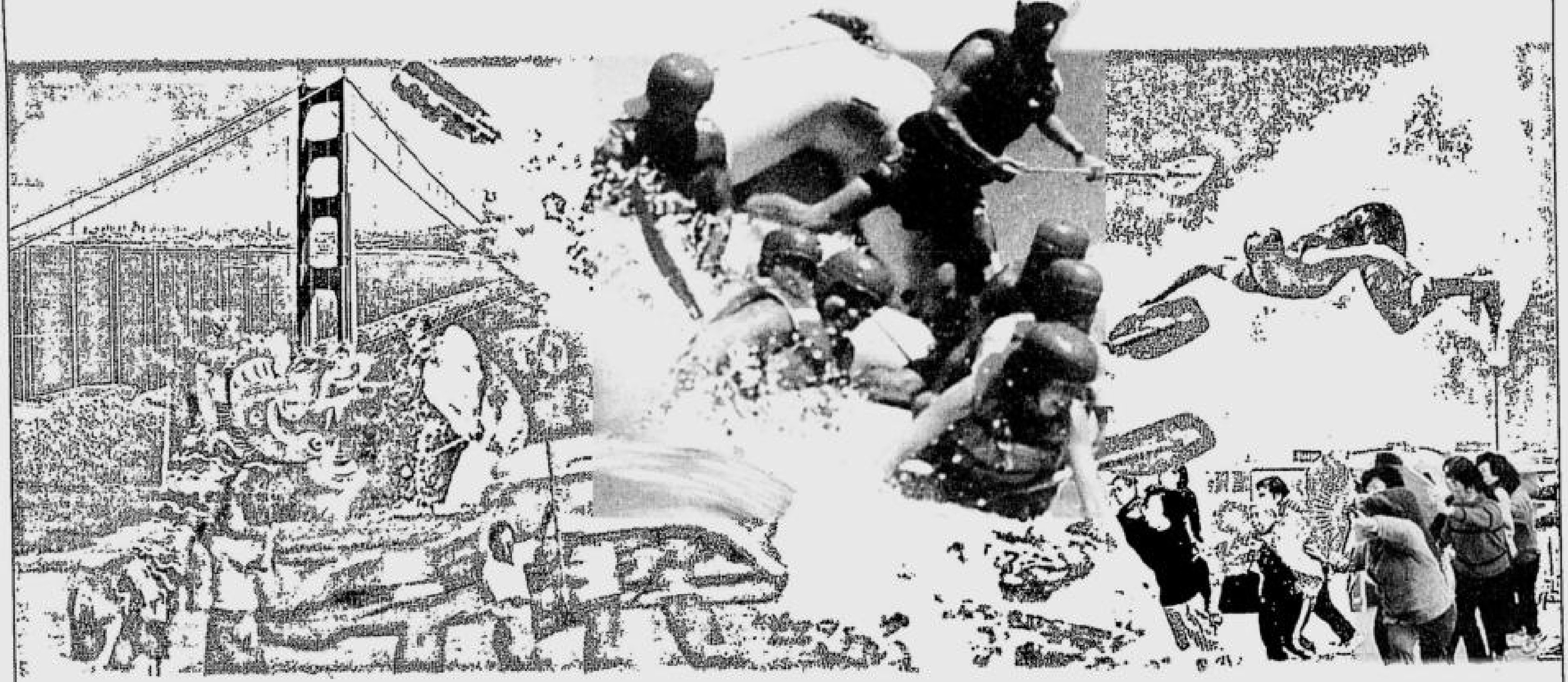

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## MAHATHIR MESSAGE TO WEST

# ‘Revenge won’t solve int’l terrorism’

**KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Sunday slammed Western powers for being “bent on revenge” which would further alienate the Muslim world, a report said.**

He said their acts of waging war would only serve to encourage terrorism. “Everything is being done to alienate them (Muslims) further, to anger and frustrate them,” Mahathir said

“This selfish move will only ensure that there will be a constant and probably increasing supply of recruits to terrorism.” The West did not care about finding and removing the root causes of terrorism, and also chose to ignore global objections to their actions, he was quoted as saying by the Bernama news agency.

“The powerful are bent on revenge rather than solutions. And so there will be no end to Muslim terrorism,” he said.

“The answer does not lie in confrontation, in force, in a war to end all wars.

“(But) the answer lies in justice and fair play, in being sensitive, in being willing to step back and to admit mistakes and banish the idea that any one race has a monopoly of the right values, the right systems and the right solutions to all the human ailments,” he said.

The veteran Asian leader also slammed sanctions against Iraq, Iran, Libya and Sudan, which he noted were all Muslim countries, adding that the killings of Palestinians made Muslims worldwide feel oppressed and angry.

He said these nations could only retaliate in the form of terror acts, “hitting out blindly at the innocent as well as the guilty,” adding that for normalcy to be restored, the West had to “stop thinking of revenge, and begin to think of justice and fair play.” The criticism comes a day after Mahathir condemned US-British air raids on Iraq, which were launched Thursday.

Washington, which fears that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is accumulating weapons of mass destruction, had earlier declared that an attack on Iraq would be the next step in its unilaterally declared “war on terror.” *AFP*

## WORLDBRIEFS

### Iraq nuke program

WASHINGTON— Iraq has tried since the middle of last year to acquire from abroad thousands of pieces of equipment that could be used only to produce enriched uranium, which is needed to manufacture nuclear weapons, US officials disclosed late Saturday. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, refused to name the country or countries where the government of President Saddam Hussein went on a nuclear shopping spree. But they said Baghdad was targeting aluminum tubes that are used exclusively in centrifuges that produce enriched uranium, a key component of any nuclear warhead. "In the recent months, Iraq has been trying to obtain these tubes for its uranium enrichment program, and some of these shipments have been stopped," said one US intelligence official. Since the tubes have no other industrial use, administration officials see the smuggling effort as fresh evidence that, contrary to Baghdad's spirited denials, the Iraqi secret nuclear program is alive and well. *AFP*

### Bush rating down

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush's overall approval rating has slid steadily downward over the summer, largely because of a major withering of support in the way he is conducting foreign policy, two polls found. A CBS News-New York Times poll released Saturday also found a majority of Americans believed Bush lacked a clear plan to carry out his war on terror. Overall, the poll found that 63 percent approved of the way Bush was doing his job. While strong for a president almost two years on the job, that number is down 3 percentage points from the summer's 66 percent rating and down 24 points from his 87-percent approval record soon after the attacks of on Sept. 11. It found 54 percent supported his foreign policy. Only two months ago 68 percent approved his foreign policy and last fall the level stood at almost three-fourths approval. Before Sept. 11, just under half the respondents approved his foreign policy performance. *AP*

### Remembering 9-11

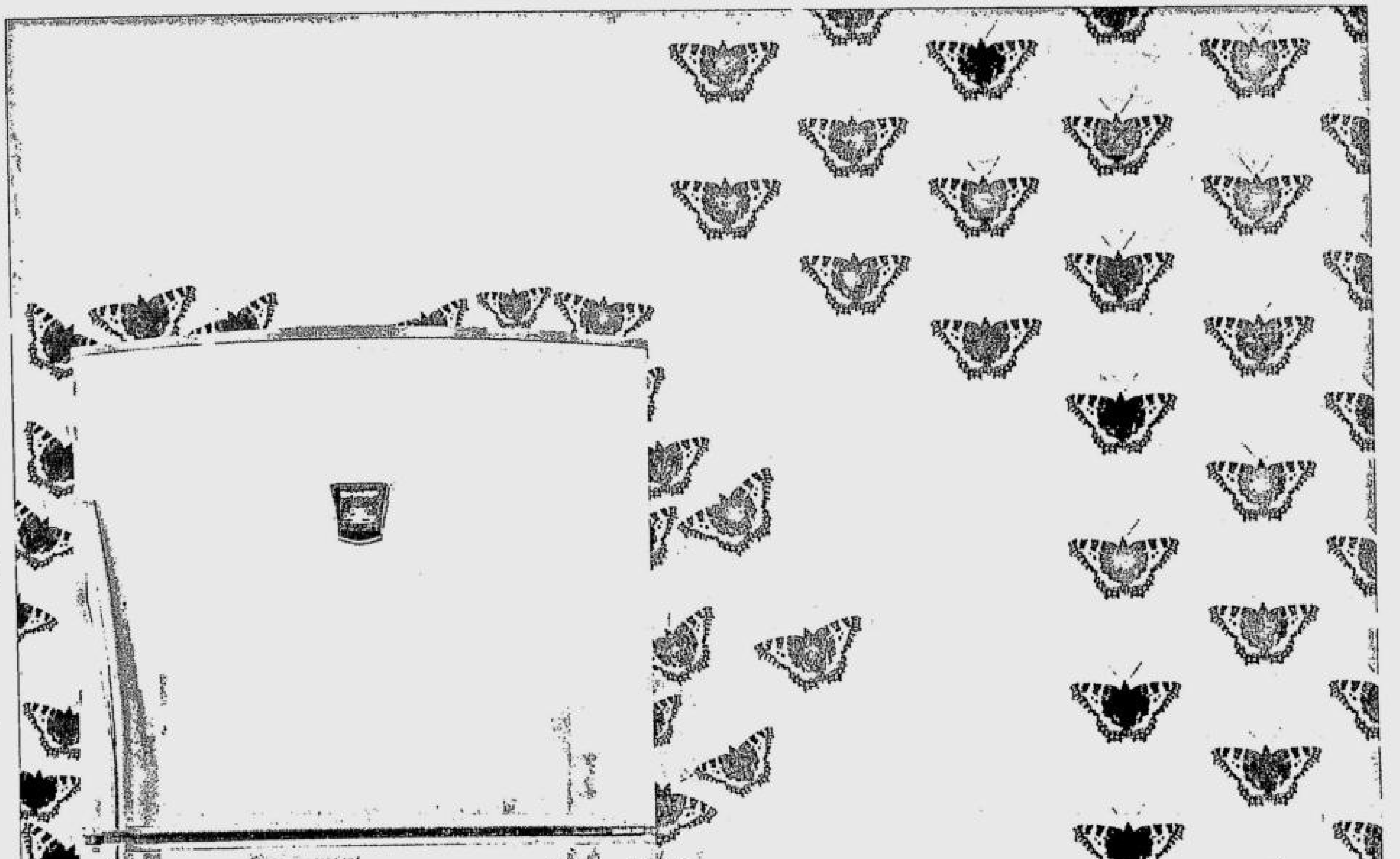
NEW YORK—Bagpipes will moan and cries for justice echo across the United States on Wednesday as Americans remember the day a year ago when the worst terrorist act in history shattered their notions of an impregnable homeland. From a moment of silence to a setpiece address by President George W. Bush with the Statue of Liberty as a backdrop, the country will mark the Sept. 11 assault by hijacked airliners on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. A round-the-clock schedule of candlelight ceremonies, prayers, processions and concerts in virtually all US cities will pay homage to the 3,000 people who died and steel the public for a protracted battle against global terrorism. For some it will be a time of painful remembrance, for others a period of healing and rebuilding. But few Americans will escape the nagging belief that Sept. 11 might be only the beginning of a new nightmare. *AP*

### Psychological impact

WASHINGTON—While Americans have sought to put the trauma of Sept. 11 behind them, many experts feel it will shape the future of an entire generation. A year after 9-11, as so many refer to the date here, "the American way of life" is in many ways getting back to normal, according to Tom Smith, a social scientist at the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center, who co-authored a report out this month called "America Recovers." Smith said, "The recovery level from the levels of stress, anxiety and psychological disruption has been quite rapid." But there are still notable portions of the population that show a persistence of symptoms of emotional stress: 8 percent of the general population and 15 percent of the New York population. *AP*

### Cracks in security

LONDON—As the specter of terror attacks loom large over Britain near the anniversary of last year's Sept. 11 attacks, two Sunday tabloid newspapers have again exposed cracks in national security. In what has become something of media obsession, a reporter from The People smuggled a steel meat cleaver onto a domestic flight, while another from the News of The World used fake references to gain access to a nuclear reactor. Nuclear sites and airports are considered high on terrorist hit lists, with security significantly stepped up following last year's attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. The lapses come days after another journalist smuggled an imitation pistol onto a plane at London's Heathrow airport and a Swedish man of Tunisian was arrested on suspicion of trying to hijack a plane bound to Britain from near Stockholm. *Reuters*



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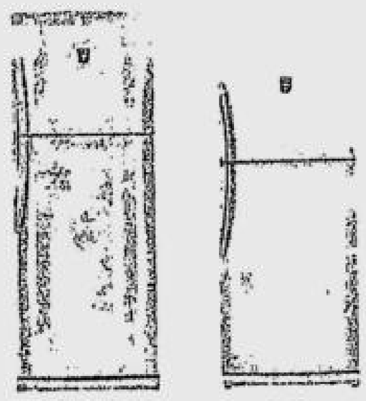

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SJ-43L
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SHARP

# 40 Nepal cops killed in attack by 1,000 Maoists

KATMANDU—At least 40 policemen were killed Sunday when 1,000 Maoist rebels raided a police post in Nepal in an attack which could be the last straw for the government that is considering reimposing a state of emergency.

Another 19 policemen were wounded and 11 are missing after the attack in eastern Nepal, a government minister said.

It was the first major rebel offensive since a 10-month state of emergency—first imposed to combat the rebels—was lifted on Aug. 28.

"At least 40 policemen were killed and 19 injured when Maoists attacked a police post at Bhimad in the eastern Sindhuli district Saturday midnight," Home Minister Devendra Raj Kandel said.

"About 1,000 Maoists had attacked the police post manned by 70 policemen," the state minister said.

Contact with the post was severed after the attack began and there were few details of the situation.

"We do not know if the rebels suffered casualties as we are now concentrating on collecting information about police," he said.

Security forces were sent to the area, but the rebels had put a tree across the main road leading to Sindhuli before they attacked to make it more difficult for reinforcements to arrive, police said.

"It was the first major attack launched by the rebels since the state emergency ended on Aug. 28," a police spokesperson said.

Emergency rule was first imposed in November last year after the guerrillas broke a four-month ceasefire with the government and pulled out of peace talks.

It gave local authorities and security forces wide powers to detain and interrogate suspected rebels and impose curfews.

Critics said emergency rule curtailed human rights and had not been effective in the fight against the guerrillas, who have been fighting since 1996 for a communist republic. The insurgency has so far claimed more than 4,400 lives.

It was renewed twice, but expired late last month and Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba decided not to extend it again because elections are due to be held in November.

But since it expired there have been blasts almost daily in the Nepalese capital, which have injured several people. A soldier was killed trying to defuse one of the bombs.

The rebels have not claimed responsibility for the attacks, but police suspect they are involved.

Political sources said an attack of this magnitude could push the government into deciding to bring back the emergency.

Washington warned last week of a safety risk to Americans and other tourists in Nepal because of Maoist-related violence.

The rebels, inspired by the revolutionary ideas of the late Chinese communist leader Mao Zedong, have vowed to bring down what they say is a corrupt, feudalistic political system.

The conflict has increased the economic woes of one of the 10 poorest countries in the world. Investment and tourists have been scared away from the scenic, mountainous country, home to Mount Everest and the birthplace of Buddha. *AFP and Reuters*

# 36 Nokors smell freedom

BEIJING—Thirty-six North Koreans who have sought refuge at foreign embassies in Beijing are expected to leave China in the coming days, diplomatic sources yesterday said.

Fifteen of them have been holed up at a German Embassy school since Tuesday, and the other 21 are at the South Korean Embassy.

An agreement was reached about the 15 North Koreans at the school on Thursday, China's foreign ministry announced then, without giving details.

"The agreement is being put into action," a German Embassy spokesperson said Sunday, refusing to put a date on the departure of the asylum-seekers.

"The North Koreans are still on the school grounds," he said.

Lessons at the school, which were disrupted when the North Koreans arrived Tuesday, will resume today even though the asylum-seekers are still at the school, school principal Siegfried Meschede said.

They were in an area of the school that was not accessible to the students, he said in a message posted on the school's website.

The 21 North Korean refugees at the South Korean Embassy in Beijing were expected to leave "very soon," a South Korean diplomat said Sunday.

The diplomat said Saturday that Chinese police were checking the identities of the North Koreans and whether they had criminal records.

He said another group of North Koreans made up of more than 10 people was also on South Korean diplomatic premises. *AFP*

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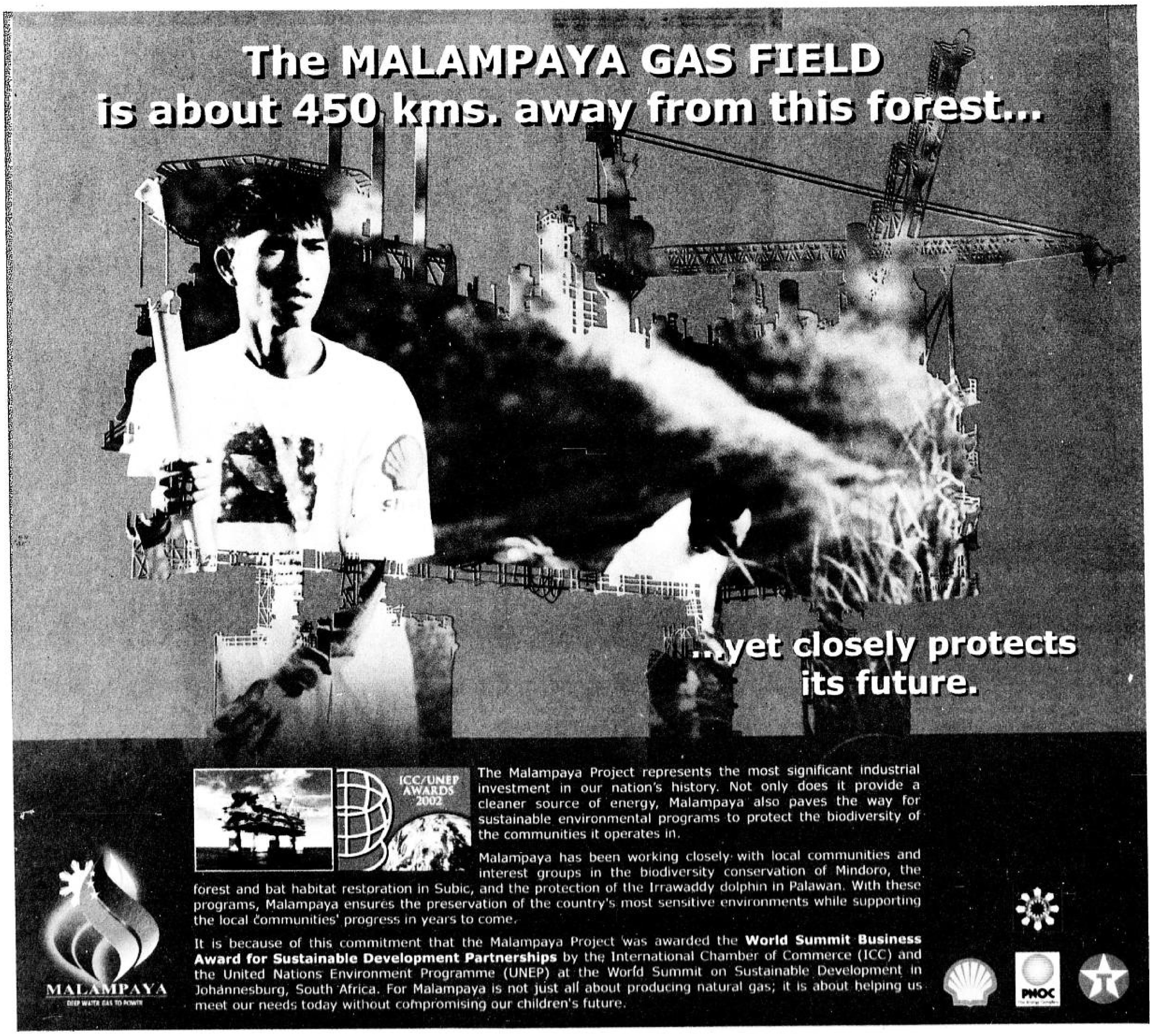
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# Across the NATION

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## Spies to tail 'jueteng' suspects

STA. CRUZ, Laguna—Local Government Secretary Jose D. Lina Jr. has directed local government units (LGUs) here, including provincial and barangay officials, to prepare "Orders of Battle" against suspected jueteng operators and drug lords.

Lina said the lists would contain the names of suspects, including officials and private individuals, who are suspected of financing illegal gambling or are involved in the illegal drug trade.

Lina said the lists would be kept confidential to prevent these from being abused and from being used to "irresponsibly" expose suspected drug and gambling offenders.

The "Order of Battle" of suspected persons involved in illegal drugs and illegal gambling would serve as the basis for surveillance and careful investigation by police enforcers, according to Lina. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

# MILF woos Filipino deportees into membership in rebel group

**COTABATO CITY—A ranking official of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front said it would be better for the estimated 85,000 Filipinos, who were forcibly ejected from Sabah, Malaysia, to join the rebel group than become members of the "other groups."**

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF vice chair for political affairs, was obviously referring to the Abu Sayyaf and other armed groups engaged in banditry in Mindanao.

He said the deportees need to start anew and that financial problems could lure them into joining criminal organizations.

"We have to help them start a better life before they join a ragtag group of bandits and criminals (and) become an added problem to society," Jaafar said.

He said interested deportees could contact MILF field commanders in their respective areas of residence.

Jaafar said that with the signing of a final peace agreement between the MILF and the government, "these MILF deportees will be qualified to avail of the benefits that the organization may get, like livelihood and social amelioration."

The MILF, which is fighting to establish a separate state in Mindanao, is currently locked in peace negotiations with the government.

"But we are not recruiting them to become combatants. We are not doing that and we will not do that. What we wanted is for them to join us in our quest for (a) just and lasting solution to the peace and order problem of Mindanao," Jaafar said.

He said the deportees could become civilian supporters and sympathizers so that the peace agreement would finally be achieved.

While inviting the deportees to join the MILF, Jaafar also decried Malaysia's alleged inhuman treatment of the deportees.

"But we can only question the treatment accorded by Malaysian authorities because human rights should be upheld. If it is true that the treatment was shabby, then the (Philippine government) should look into it," he said.

As to the dispute between the two countries over Sabah, Jaafar said the MILF has adopted a "hands-off policy" on the conflict.

"The (Philippine government) itself has not decided on the Sabah claim so it is not proper for us to comment at this time," he said.

It was largely believed that Malaysia has helped fund the MILF because of this dispute.

But Jaafar said he could only confirm that Malaysia was helping the rebel group enter into a peace agreement with the government. *Charlie C. Senase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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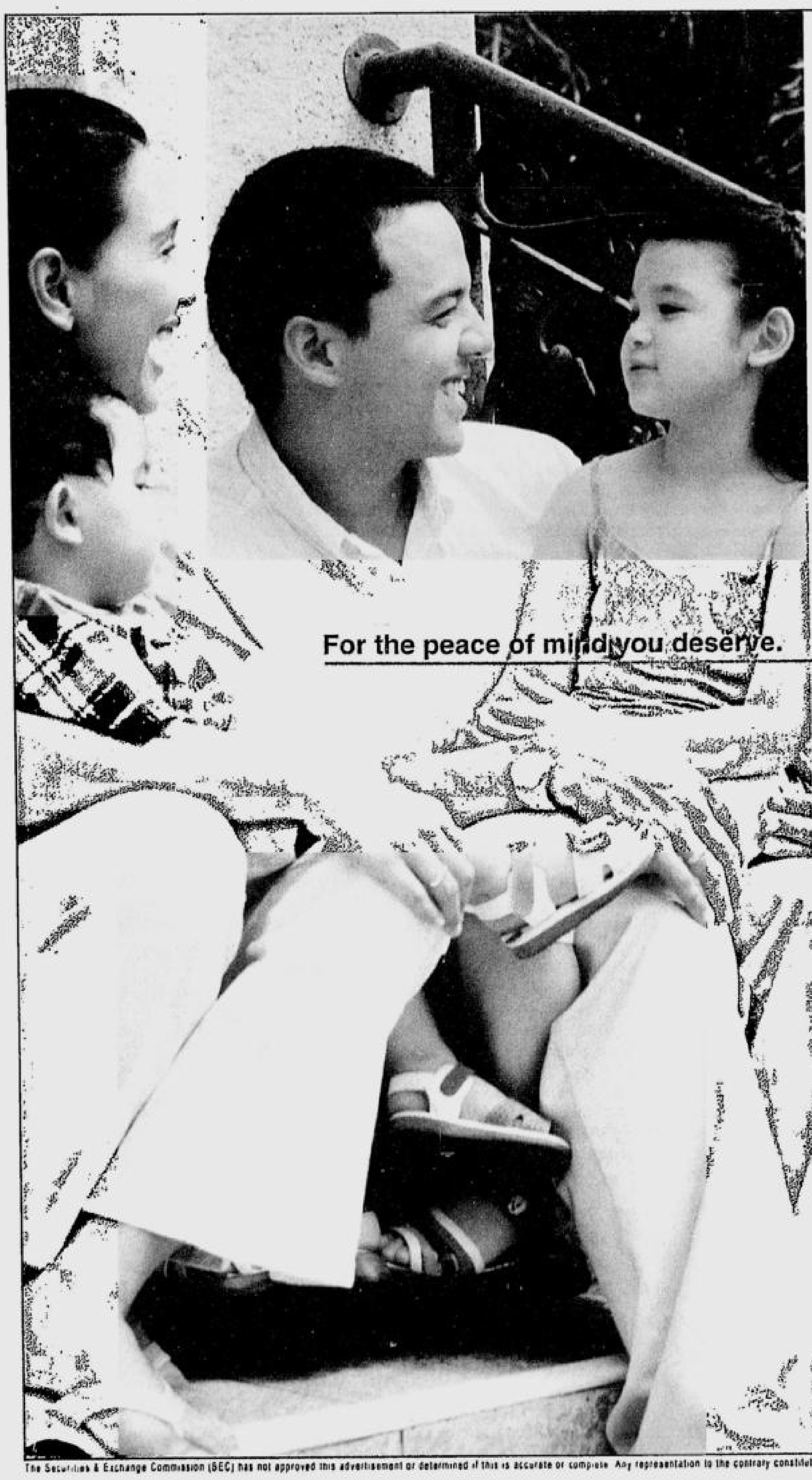
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# ABORT WATER IMPOUNDMENT IN THE SAN ROQUE RESERVOIR; STOP THE OPERATION OF THE SAN ROQUE DAM. NULLIFY THE IPP CONTRACT OF THE SAN ROQUE POWER CORPORATION!

On the 8th of August, at 1:00 in the afternoon, the impounding of water in the San Roque reservoir began. Unless the impoundment is aborted, the eight small villages located within the reservoir area will be completely inundated within the next several months, at a rate that will depend on the incidence and volume of rainfall in the Agno river's catchment zone.

And beyond the eight villages, many others, occupied by a total of nearly 5,000 indigenous peasant families, will be victimized by siltation and upstream flooding over the coming years, at a rate that will depend on the incidence and volume of erosion and dam sediment spillage in the Agno river system – on which eight mine tailings dams, as well as the Ambuclao and Binga hydropower dams, remain standing.

Within 12 to 25 years, downstream flooding, also induced by the siltation of the San Roque reservoir, will endanger the lives and properties of the 1.5 million people who occupy the Agno river's floodplains.

Last June, the Philippine government and the National Power Corporation indicated that they would comply with requests for them to defer impoundment until they had satisfactorily addressed all the issues raised by the people who stood to be adversely affected by it. One issue was economic dislocation and the lack of livelihood alternatives for gold panners operating in the San Roque reservoir area. Another was the various forms of displacement that would be suffered by all the communities living in the river basin and on the floodplains of the Agno. But towards the end of July, the government sent armed troops to assist the NPC and the San Roque Power Corporation in the violent dispersal of gold panners from their encampments in the reservoir area so that impoundment could begin.

Perhaps the government felt that the aforecited issues were beyond its capacity to resolve. In the past, the government tried to dismiss the issue of indigenous people's displacement by reducing this to a question of legal technicality. Specifically, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples declare that the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act could not be applied to the San Roque Multipurpose Project because the contract for the Project had already been signed one month before the IPRA took effect. It was as if GMA and the NCIP were saying that paper formalities held greater significance than fact – than the fact that the dam project was ruining the lives and livelihood of over 20,000 indigenous people.

Perhaps the government was also trying to make sure that preparations for the operation of the San Roque dam could commence before anyone took any legal action to stop the enforcement of the NPC's contract with the SRPC as an independent power producer. In July, a government review committee had itself announced that the San Roque agreement was among five IPP contracts fraught with "legal and financial issues."

The issues the committee discovered most probably had to do with the lopsidedness of the deal between the NPC and the foreign companies that comprised the SRPC. Their contract stipulated that both parties invest tremendous amounts of money in the construction of the San Roque dam – specifically, US$ 700 million on the part of the SRPC companies, and US$ 400 million on the part of the NPC. Yet the contract provided only the SRPC companies with assurance that they would enjoy returns on their investment within the first twelve years of the dam's operation. And this by means of guaranteed payments from the NPC.

The NPC would pay the SRPC for all the power produced at San Roque, at a rate of about US$ 16 million a month. In the event that poor water flow along a heavily silted Agno river resulted in zero kilowatt-hour production, the NPC would still be obliged to pay the SRPC US$ 9 million a month. Thus, in twelve years, the NPC would pay the SRPC a minimum total of US$ 1.3 billion. The maximum total would be US$ 2.3 billion.

The financial obligations of the NPC to the SRPC would likely be passed on to the Filipino people.

It would be cheaper for the Filipino people to not have the San Roque dam operated and instead assume the obligations of the SRPC companies to the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, which lent them the money they invested at low interest. This would save the Filipino people from paying inflated electricity bills, in addition to shouldering the environmental and social costs of operating the dam. Because of siltation and the flooding this will induce, the said costs are bound to rise year after year.

But the Filipino people need not assume the said obligations.

The foreign companies that comprise the SRPC embarked on the San Roque project knowing full well that it was a project whose legitimacy could be called to question because it could not be undertaken without excessive cost to the Filipino public. The said companies should thus have been prepared for the possibility of losing their investment if their project were ever declared illegal for being inimical to public interest.

Having the SRPC's contract nullified on such grounds is precisely what the Philippine government should do. Instead, it has appeared more eager to ensure the profits of the foreign companies that comprise the SRPC than to protect the welfare of the Filipino public. It has continued to try and justify the San Roque project – recently by using the argument of irrigation development.

The government is now poised to implement the San Roque project's irrigation component at an additional cost to the Filipino public of US$ 200 million. It has ignored the concerns raised about the quality of irrigation the San Roque reservoir would provide given the toxic levels at which mine tailings would be concentrated in this reservoir. It has glossed over the admission made by its own irrigation engineers that the operation of the San Roque dam was neither the only nor the best means for solving the problem of erratic water supply to farms located on the floodplains of the Agno.

The Philippine government should simply come to terms with, and admit the fact that, in commissioning the work on the San Roque dam, it made a gigantic error in judgement; it embarked on a project that would not be a source of development but rather become a burden to the Filipino people.

We call on the Philippine government to:

1. ***Abort the impoundment of water in the San Roque reservoir.***
2. ***Take legal action towards nullifying the Power Purchase Agreement between the NPC and the foreign companies that comprise the SRPC.***
3. ***Uphold the rights of the indigenous communities of the Agno river basin.***
4. ***Compensate Agno gold panners for the income they have already lost because of the San Roque project, and provide those gold panners who have been permanently displaced with sustainable means of livelihood.***
5. ***Provide sustainable means of livelihood also to Agno farmers who were dislocated by the construction of the San Roque dam.***
6. ***Abort the implementation of the San Roque project's irrigation component.***

We further appeal to the Japan Bank for International Cooperation and to Japan's Ministry of Finance to immediately cancel the remaining loan for this unjust project.

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# 2,000 jobs offered at Subic freeport

OLONGAPO CITY—Locators at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone offered 2,000 jobs to more than 5,000 job seekers as part of the freeport's 10th anniversary celebration last week.

Thirty-six local and foreign investors, mostly engaged in manufacturing and tourism, took part in the 5th job fair conducted by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo said the freeport's workforce has reached 55,000 workers, exceeding the peak level of 30,000 when the Americans operated the base.

Locators such as Firm Precision Industrial, Hoeki Subic Corp., Omron Mechatronics (Philippines), Sanyo Denki Philippines Inc., Taian Subic Electric Inc., Taiwan Hitachi Subic Inc., and Wincross Informtech Ltd. participated in the job fair.

Operators of tourism-related businesses such as Subic Bay Marine Exploratorium Inc., Duty Free Superstore, 88 Mart Duty Free Inc., Legend International Resorts Ltd., Ocean King Marine Integrated Services (Omkis), and Gerry's Grill Bar and Restaurant also took part in the fair.

Other agencies, including the Subic Bay Workers Development supported the fair.

*Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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RED VIGILANTE GROUP

# Rebs-turned-assassins execute 2 drug suspects in Nueva Ecija

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Assassins of the Red Vigilante Group executed two men in Llanera, Nueva Ecija on Thursday night, reports reaching here said.

Speaking to the INQUIRER by phone, Ka Ryan, the RVG spokesperson, identified the group's latest victims as Romy Ferrer and Willy Chaves. The RVG described Ferrer as an "untouchable drug lord" and Chaves as a "top drug pusher" in Nueva Ecija.

The RVG spokesperson said the two, both from Talavera town, were forcibly taken by RVG members from their houses in Barangays San Matias and San Pascual in the same town on Thursday night.

Ka Ryan said Ferrer and Chaves were taken to Barangay Luna, Llanera, about 11 km from Talavera, where they were shot and killed by RVG assassins at 7:35 p.m.

Supt. Danilo Formanes, Nueva Ecija police intelligence chief, confirmed the killings of Ferrer and Chaves but did not identify RVG members as suspects.

Formanes said the two men had no criminal records. He said though that Ferrer and Chaves were known for their involvement in "petty street drug pushing."

But Formanes criticized the RVG when told that it had admitted responsibility for the slaying. He said the group chose not to target the "big fish," referring to leaders of local drug syndicates.

The RVG claimed Ferrer had long been in the order of battle of the Philippine National Police's Narcotics Group in Central Luzon.

The group said Ferrer began supplying illegal drugs, mainly shabu, in 1994 and used Talavera town as his base. The RVG also tagged Ferrer in several cases of car theft and in the murder of a former barangay captain in 1990.

Ferrer, Ka Ryan added, had not been charged or arrested for any crime "because he had links with the PNP and politicians."

The RVG claimed Chaves was the top drug pusher in Barangays San Pascual, Lomboy, Siksikan and Tabacao in Talavera.

"Ferrer supplied Chaves with shabu," Ka Ryan said.

The recent executions brought to 25 the victims of the RVG since 1998. The group is comprised of mostly former New People's Army rebels. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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# Ring gives away stolen cellphone in cop's pocket

**By Jhunnex Napallacan**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—Supt. Josephus Angan, acting Cebu City police director, ordered the relief of a policeman accused of stealing the cellular phone of a college student.

Angan also disarmed and confiscated the badge of SPO2 Felixberto Rellen, chief of the Intelligence Section of Barangay Punta Princesa police station.

Rellen was temporarily assigned to the Security Service Group pending resolution of an investigation being conducted by the Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Bureau.

Angan also ordered the investigation of Rellen's fellow policemen at the Barangay Punta Princesa police station for failing to act on the complaint of Janino Reoma, 19, that Rellen took his cellular phone.

The two policemen were identified as Insp. Benedicto Orbase, who was the officer-on-duty at that time, and desk officer SPO2 Ricardo Abay.

Rellen and his team stopped Reoma, a resident of Barangay Punta Princesa, midnight of Thursday on suspicion that he was drunk while driving his motorcycle.

Reoma was brought to the police station after he failed to present a driver's license. Police also suspected that the motorcycle was stolen.

Reoma was told place on the table all his belongings, including his 3310 Nokia cellular phone.

Reoma later noticed that his mobile phone was gone when he wanted to call his parents to attest his ownership of the motorcycle.

He asked Rellen about his phone but the policeman told him that he did not know about Reoma's mobile phone.

Rellen accompanied Reoma to his home where his parents confirmed that the motorcycle was indeed owned by his son.

When Reoma complained that his cellular phone was missing, his mother and brother went with him to the police station.

At the police station, Reoma's brother sent a text message to Reoma's phone. To their surprise, they heard a mobile phone ring inside the pocket of Rellen's short pants.

But Rellen denied that he had a phone in his pocket. He even got his 5110 Nokia cellular phone to show that it was the one ringing.

Reoma's brother sent another text message. A cellular phone again rang from the policeman's pocket.

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# Priest says Church in Visayas more open

**By Lino K. Parone Jr.**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

CEBU CITY—Catholics in the Visayas are just more truthful about their priests than in Luzon and Mindanao, said Msgr. Cristobal Garcia, chairman of the Commission on Worship of the Cebu Archdiocese.

He was reacting to the survey results of Social Weather Station (SWS), which showed that incidence of priest's abuse of women and minors were higher in the Visayas than in Luzon and Mindanao.

"Our Catholics tend to be more truthful because they have always had a say in the growth of religiosity in the parishes," Garcia told INQUIRER during a plenum of the 17th National Meeting of Diocesan Directors of Liturgy at the Holy Family Retreat House.

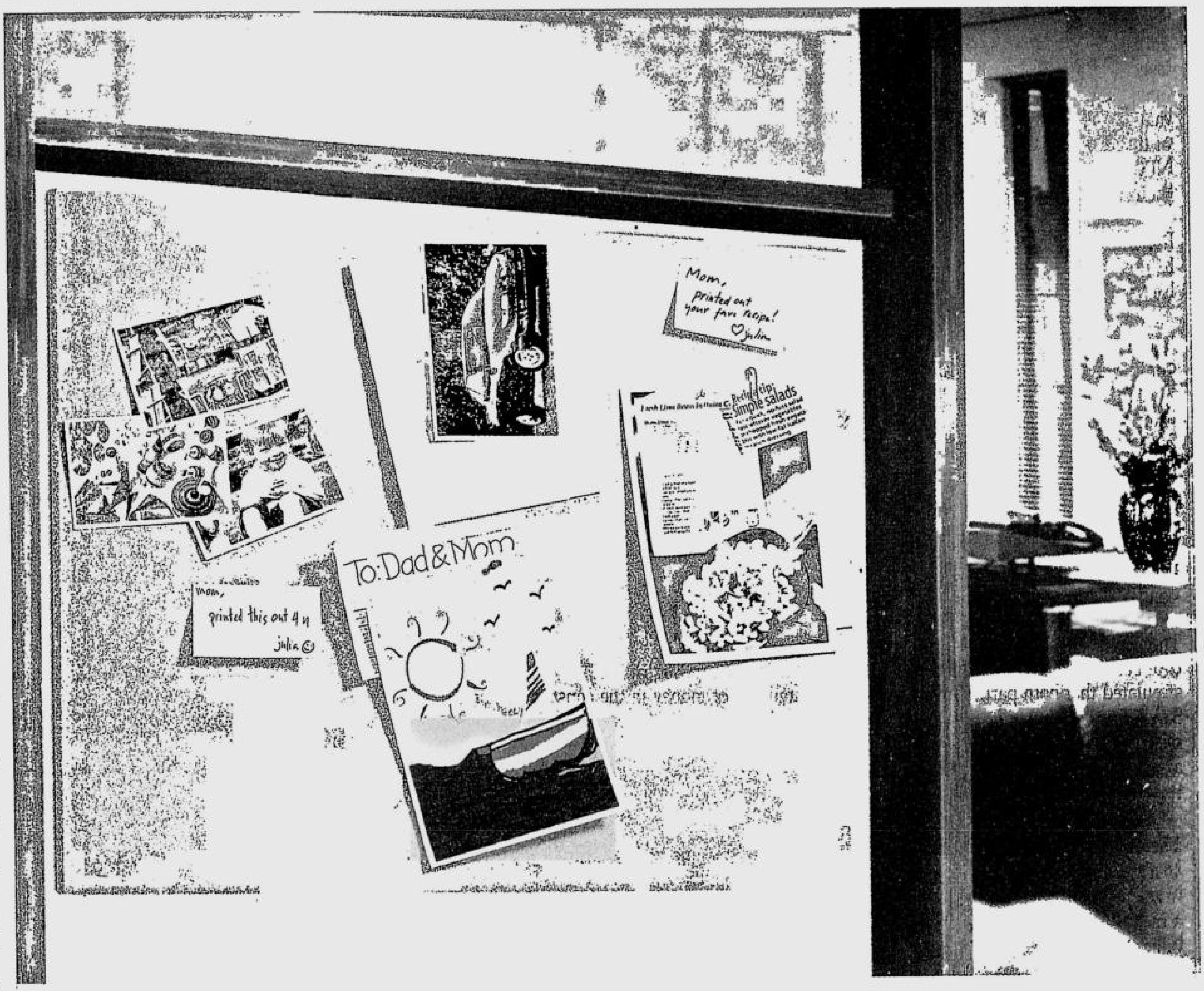
Regions in Luzon, Garcia, said, tend to be quiet about the failings of their priests because they don't want to be scandalized.

Bishop Oscar Valles, chair of the Episcopal Commission in Liturgy, said the Catholic Church is encouraging regional traditions and cultural variations in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist throughout the country.

"All these are focused on the need for more holiness and renewal in the Church," Valles said.

Other priests were one in saying that marriage for ordained priests is a non-issue.

"One cannot just change tradition because a few priests could not keep their vows of celibacy. The priesthood of celibate men consecrated to God—it is still the same priesthood that I want to maintain now," a priest from Luzon said.



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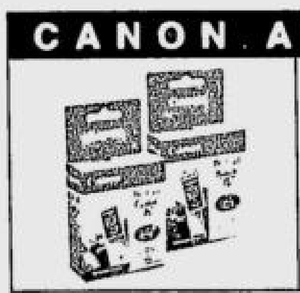
|  | BC1-21 Black<br>BC1-21 Color | ₱280.00<br>₱555.00 |

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# PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The City Treasurer's Office of Manila shall conduct a **Public Auction on October 30, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. at the Rodriguez Hall of the City Hall, Villegas St., Ermita, Manila.** Pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991, Real Properties certified to be delinquent in the payment of real estate taxes as of December 31, 2001 shall be sold to satisfy delinquent taxes, penalties and cost due thereon.

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# Palawan folk get taste of reset special polls

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The recall elections that had been originally scheduled for Saturday (Sept. 7) here did not push through. In its place, reporters in this city held a voters' poll.

If the poll's results would be any indication, then former mayor Edward Hagedorn appears to be on the way to regaining the seat he gave up to run for governor in the 2001 elections.

The poll was held in front of the New City Commercial Center on Saturday and initiated by the Palawan Press Club.

"Ballots" were distributed to shoppers and results showed that Hagedorn got 948 votes while the incumbent mayor, Dennis Socrates, 159.

Residents of this city were asked: "If the election was held today, who would you vote (for)?"

Those who were asked to vote presented purchase receipts from the shop and asked if they were residents of the city.

The "election," which lasted from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., gathered a total of 1,173 votes.

After the last ballot was cast, scores of people batting for their candidates milled around the counting area, waiting for the results.

But some residents criticized the poll, saying it was politically motivated.

The special election was reset to Sept. 22 by the Comelec. *Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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# Alvarez defends cut of Picop power supply

BUTUAN CITY—Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez on Saturday rose in defense of the National Power Corp.'s decision to disconnect the power lines of debt-plunged Picop Resources Inc., saying it was for the country's best interest.

Alvarez, who is also a member of Napocor's board of directors, belied allegations that the move was part of his retaliation against the firm, whose management opposed his confirmation as environment secretary by the Commission on Appointments.

"They did not pay their obligation to the tune of something P200 million, the cut was justified and legitimate," he said.

He said with the country's ballooning budget deficit, the government could neither afford not to generate income nor "subsidize" the debt incurred by Picop.

"Napocor itself is debt-laden and it could not afford subsidizing Picop's power obligation," he added.

Picop, Southeast Asia's largest paper mill company, owes power firm Generation Co., which is run and controlled by Napocor, some P200 million.

But Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, who earlier accused Alvarez of bribing the wood firm, said Picop's power fiasco could be part of Alvarez's effort to harass and disrupt the firm's operation.

"Secretary Alvarez has been trying to close and harass Picop for whatever reason," Pichay on Thursday said.

But Alvarez lashed back at Pichay for "defending a corporation whose obligations are detrimental to public interest."

"It is unfortunate that Mr. Pichay, who is a congressman, talks like an executive officer of Picop. Mr. Pichay is tolerating mismanagement, covering up for a delinquent firm. He is coddling an inefficient system," Alvarez said.

"Mr. Pichay is being paid from government coffers, by public money and not by the private sector. His siding with Picop is opposed to public interest. The job of a public official is to protect public interest. Lawmakers should be symbols of public interest. They should instead help me collect taxes and collectibles," Alvarez said.

Alvarez said he did not know that Picop owed Napocor P200 million in unpaid debt. But now that he knew about it, he said he would ask the Napocor board to investigate the reported debt.

"If I knew that, I would have it collected. But I have nothing to do with collections because I am a policy-making member of Napocor," he said. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau and Gerald Lacuarta*

# Iloilo women join outrage

**By Ma. Diosa Labiste**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

ILOILO CITY—Women's groups here condemned the rape of a 13-year-old girl in Sabah before she was deported to the Philippines with some 500 other Filipinos on Sept. 3.

The Iloilo Women Advocacy Group (Iwag) and the militant Gabriela joined the national outrage over reports that the girl was abused by Malaysian policeman while in a Sandakan holding center for Filipinos illegally staying in Malaysia.

The Iwag is an umbrella of women's groups, government agencies and non-government organizations that helps women victims of rape, incest and family violence. The group is also an advocate for reproductive rights.

The Gabriela is also an umbrella of women's groups composed mostly of women from the urban poor and farming communities.

"We protest . . . the sexual abuse and express outrage on the indignity and degrading treatment of our women and children by Malaysia police," read a statement from Iwag.

Azucena Pestano, one of the coordinators of Iwag, said the Malaysian authorities' actions, if true, are deplorable because Malaysia is signatory to two international conventions for the protection of women and children.

These were the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (Cedaw) and Convention on the Rights of the Child for the protection of women and children.

The Iwag also criticized the Philippine government for not reacting strongly to news of inhuman treatment of Filipinos in Sabah, "whose only crime is to leave the country because of economic instability."

Gabriela said the Malaysian police and government violated human rights and committed criminal acts against the Filipino people by rounding them up and not providing them decent holding centers.

The group also criticized the Philippine government's inattention to the problems of illegal Filipinos in Malaysia even though it was informed of the plan to deport them a year ago.

# 250 kids benefit from hacienda plan

AT LEAST 250 pre-school children from seven villages in Hacienda Luisita have so far benefited from a youth development program launched by the Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) to provide quality education to children of its farm workers.

The program, Center for Excellence (Centex), provide the workers' children pre-school learning materials to enable them to learn the basics of reading and writing to prepare them for elementary school.

Martin Cojuangco, HLI farm manager, said in a press statement that Centex also provides supplemental feeding to the children.

The other components of Centex, he said, include parental counseling, book purchase, curriculum and facilities development, teacher training and livelihood opportunities for parents.

"Education is a great equalizer," said Cojuangco.

The seven villages that benefited from Centex were Cut-Cut, Asturias, Balete, Bantog, Mapalacsiao, Lourdes and Central.

The villages have an average of 35 pupils each enrolled in pre-school.

# Army accused of bribing clash victims

MATI, Davao Oriental—The human rights group Karapatan-Mindanao claimed that the military bribed the families of civilian casualties in the recent clash between soldiers and communist rebels in Baganga town.

Karapatan said the military handed money to the families of the victims to persuade them from filing charges against soldiers involved in the clash.

Gemma Daguman, of Karapatan, said the families have suddenly become sympathetic with the military.

For those who died, the military gave P15,000 while it gave P10,000 for those who were wounded.

Maj. Alexis Gopico, commander of the Army's 8th Special Forces Battalion, said the financial assistance given to the victims were not meant to stop them from suing the military. *Ferdinand Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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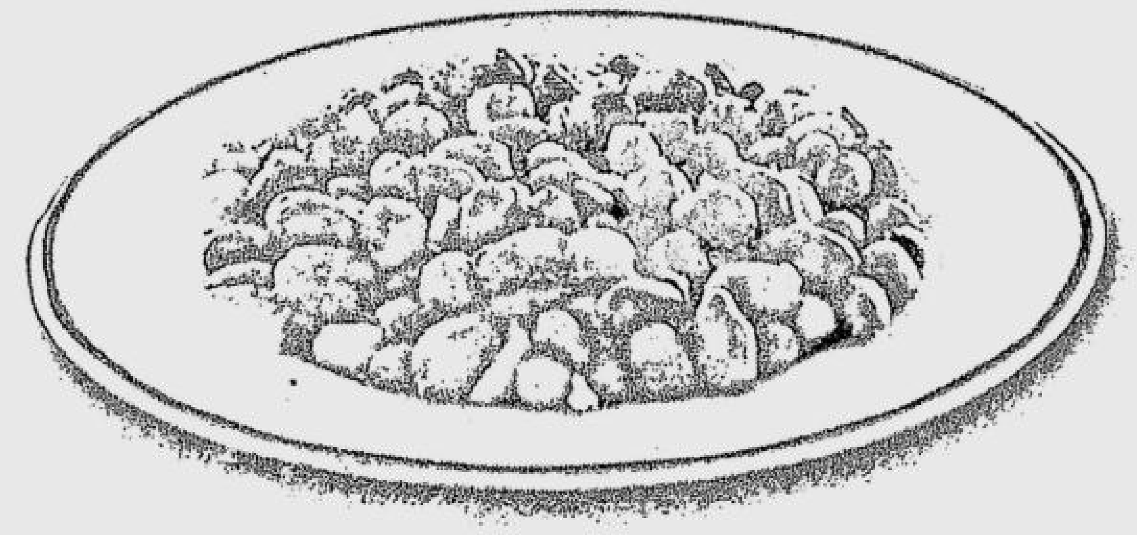

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# AFP ready for more losses

From page A1

not get out from the jungles of Patikul and hide on these islands."

He strongly denied reports that Sahiron escaped from the bandits' lair in Mount Tunggal. "As I have already said, this is no more waiting game, where the bandits could escape. This is an endgame now where we are directly penetrating their beehives."

## Casualty toll

At least 14 Abu Sayyaf bandits were reported to have been killed in the encounters—including Abdulmuin Sahiron, the man behind the kidnapping of Jehovah's Witnesses Cleofe and Florida Montulo, Emily Mantic and Nori Bendijo.

Danag barangay chair Ukang Gumbahali and Kagawad Karim Jumaidi of Talipao said Abdulmuin's body and those of two slain bandits were brought to Bud Bunga in Patikul.

The two officials said they got their information from an intelligence asset who knew Abdulmuin, who is the nephew of Abu Sayyaf commander Radulan Sahiron.

The 104th Army Brigade's list of casualties showed that eight soldiers from the 4th Infantry Battalion under Lt. Col. Joselito Bernardo were killed in Friday's encounter. Fourteen others were wounded in that six-hour clash.

Killed were S/Sgt. Diomedes Catubig, Sgt. Noli Pantillan, Sgt. Jose Ladaga, Cpl. Gemuel Solo, Pfc. Garry Farina, Pfc. Reynante Avila and MNLF integrees Pfc. Said Jakaria and Najib Kuhutan.

Kuhutan's headless body was recovered in a portion of Mount Munggit, just below Mount Tunggal. *(See related story on Page A3)*

"(The two integrees were isolated) during the encounter. From what we gathered, Kuhutan fell off a ravine while Jakaria's hand was cut off," Carolina said.

Maj. Gen. Glicerio Sua, Task Force Comet chief, said the wounded soldiers were already in a "better and safe condition and they are ready to return to the battlefield because they only suffered mild wounds."

**ARMY** soldiers in slippers patrol the streets of Barangay Danag in Patikul, Sulu. Government forces overran a major camp of the Abu Sayyaf on the outskirts of the town last week. DENNIS SABANGAN

Wounded and recuperating at the Camp Navarro Hospital inside SouthCom headquarters are T/Sgt. Wilmer Fontanilla; Corporals Zaldy Abanilla and Rolly Ratificar; and Privates First Class Muhaimin Jamsuri, Rommel Lopez, Ramton Martel, Pasar Dansalan, Joven Dubduban, Lito Dayaganon, Edgar Pedrosa, Christoper Alisada, Albert Gregorio, Eulyses Palacio and Ricky Picpic.

## No merging

Carolina and Sua denied the reported merging of top Abu Sayyaf leaders in Sulu.

"It's very impossible for (Galib Andang alias Commander) Robot, Doktor Abu and (Mujib) Susukan to join forces with Radulan (Sahiron)," Carolina said.

Sua said: "It's not likely for the two different groups to merge considering the distance and the stronghold they are holding right now."

Sua said Sahiron was based in Patikul while Robot, Susukan and Abu were based in Indanan and Talipao towns, which are "very far from the present operation in Patikul."

Carolina said there was sporadic fighting in Patikul yesterday. He said Brig. Gen. Romeo Tolentino, chief of the 104th Army Brigade, recovered two Abu Sayyaf camps in Tunggal, while three bodies of bandits were retrieved.

But Carolina also confirmed that around 150 former followers of erstwhile Moro National Liberation Front founder Nur Misuari had joined Sahiron's group, bringing the total to around 250 men.

Carolina said the four Jehovah's hostages had been turned over to Sahiron's group and were being used as human shields.

Three Indonesian hostages, abducted from their coal barge in June, are also being held by another armed group. Col. Benedict Corona, 2nd Marine Brigade, denied reports that the Indonesian hostages had also been turned over to Sahiron's group.

Corona said Indonesians Muntu Jacobus Winowatan, Jul Kipli and Pieter Lerrich were being held by a certain "Black Killer," alleged leader of a "lost command" group operating in Luuk town. ***With a report from AFP***

# Gov't, NDF sow seeds for just, lasting peace

From page A1

the New People's Army, military wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), assassinated two members of the House of Representatives accused of committing "crimes against the people."

Organizers of the tree planting said they would replicate the activity in other parts of the country as part of their commitment to campaign for the resumption of the peace talks.

Among those who planted the trees were government panel members Bello, Hernani Braganza, Risa Hontiveros, Rene Sarmiento and Karen Tañada.

Representing the NDF panel were members of the NDF's reciprocal working committee—Rafael Baylosis, Sotero Llamas and their consultants.

Also present were Bayan Muna party-list representatives Satur Ocampo and Crispin Beltran.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona sent his chief of staff and Sen. Loren Legarda, her representatives.

## Environment friendly

"This activity brings together various peace advocates, including members of the government and NDF peace panels, NGO leaders, community leaders, legislators, local government officials and concerned citizens, in an environment-friendly, peace-loving action," said Teddy Casiño, Bayan secretary general.

Sarmiento said that contrary to the allegations of some sectors, the past 10 years of negotiations between the government and the NDF had resulted in several gains for both sides.

He mentioned the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, which was signed in 1998.

Other negotiators said there was nothing wrong with President Macapagal-Arroyo's policy of "back channeling," except that it should not be done without formal negotiations.

"Back channeling should be done to complement the formal talks, not take their place," Llamas said.

Earlier, the National Council of Churches in the Philippines and the INJP brought members of the panel together not at the negotiating table but at a public forum on Sept. 1, the 10th-year anniversary of The Hague Declaration.

At the forum, Bello expressed confidence that formal peace negotiations would resume despite the government's "back channeling" initiatives aimed at ending the 32-year-old armed conflict.

But Bayan said the United States' "reckless warmongering" against Iraq and meddling in the peace negotiations between the Philippine government and the NDF were "the biggest stumbling blocks to peace in the Philippines and the world."

## Sison's account frozen

Reports reaching the Bayan office said the United States had successfully forced the Dutch government to freeze the personal bank accounts of Jose Maria Sison, chief political consultant of the NDF negotiating panel.

"How this inhuman act against a destitute asylum-seeker helps the peace process, only Presidents Bush and Macapagal-Arroyo know," Casiño said.

Casiño said the fund freeze "poisons the atmosphere for the resumption of the peace process."

"Hopefully, the Dutch government reconsiders its decision and not be a party to what is now brewing as a US-instigated plot to incite the flaring up of armed conflict," he said.

The freeze on Sison's personal account, which has a balance of about 1,000 euros (about P51,000), came almost a month after the United States asked the Netherlands to freeze the assets of the CPP, which the United States classified as a foreign terrorist organization.

As an asylum-seeker, Sison receives a small monthly stipend from the Dutch government.

Bayan reiterated that formal negotiations should resume immediately without any preconditions and that all the previously signed agreements, including The Hague Joint Declaration and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, be upheld.

# Prospects bright for RP nurses in Britain, US

From page A1

not speak English well enough to understand his instructions was widely reported.

And last month, the Nursing and Midwifery Council, which registers overseas nurses in Britain, introduced compulsory English tests for non-European Union recruits.

Ministers are also considering compulsory HIV testing for nurses arriving to work in Britain. "Fears that up to 700 foreign nurses have AIDS infection," read one recent headline.

## How welcome?

No matter how badly needed they are, some migrant workers are beginning to wonder just how welcome they are in Britain.

"Mostly people are friendly but some—they don't like being treated by a foreigner," said 26-year-old Michelle, from the Philippines.

She did not want to give her family name because she is already planning to leave Britain for the United States.

Her decision to go highlights a potential time bomb for the NHS—a brewing international recruitment war.

The NHS—already Europe's largest employer with 1.1 million staff members—says it needs to recruit an extra 35,000 nurses by 2008, a 10-percent increase.

Nearly a third of NHS nurses and midwives are aged over 45 and, despite growing numbers of British nursing students, a recent report commissioned by the country's biggest nursing union said the NHS would have difficulty meeting its target.

"This points to a continuing high profile for the UK in international nursing labor markets," said the report's author, Prof. Jim Buchan of the Queen Margaret University College in Edinburgh.

Numbers of new nurses from outside Britain have increased fivefold since the early 1990s, and last year 15,000—almost half of those registering—came from abroad. The vast majority are from the Philippines, South Africa and Australia.

But the United States, also facing a nursing shortage, is stepping up its efforts to recruit from the Philippines.

The president of the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) trade union, Beverly Malone, has described it as "a sleeping giant starting to wake."

## US bureaucracy

"The salary there is three times what we get here," said Michelle, and her compatriots at the Ashford Hospital agree that conditions are far better in the United States than in Britain.

They say the only thing that stopped most of them from going to America in the first place was the bureaucracy. Completing US immigration procedures in the Philippines takes around two years, while those for Britain take a few months.

"I think most people want to go to the States because it's part of our culture," said 29-year-old Olive Panahon.

Nursing training in the Philippines—a former US colony—is often based on American textbooks and English is widely spoken there.

Now, the RCN predicts the United States may simplify its procedures.

"As the global shortage tightens in the States, it is likely that bureaucracy might be loosened," said Verity Lewis, the RCN's recruitment officer. "The US entering into the market in a more aggressive way will have a major impact on the UK."

But the most serious impact of a stepped-up global bidding war will be on the Philippines itself.

Already a fifth of all nurses qualifying in the Philippines leave the country, the Wall Street Journal reported in July, saying the lack of nurses there was "crippling the resources of health care facilities."

So why do they leave?

"Well, let's face it. First, it's income. Second, it's learning about the world," said Panahon, sitting in her tiny hospital bed-sit, surrounded by photographs of her family.

## Families separated

Her 2-year-old son Bocholo is back home in the Philippines with her mother, while her husband works at another hospital, a two-hour journey away on the other side of London.

Like most of her compatriots, she sends around a third of her salary home. Labor is the Philippines' primary source of foreign earnings and 9 percent of the population works abroad, sending home some $6 billion last year.

At home, though her work was more interesting than in Britain, Panahon earned only $70 a month and often managed only a few hours' sleep between her 12-hour shifts, with a two-hour journey each way.

Panahon hopes to bring her son to England when he is 4, and says the separation is worth it.

"Absence makes the heart grow fonder," she said. "I'm encouraging my friends to come here to work."

For the sake of keeping the health service functioning, Britain's government can only hope they agree. ***Reuters***

# Life is short, should be lived to the full, 9/11 survivors say

From page A1

the train, however, she was stunned to see people stampeding out of the building. Instinctively, she joined the stampede.

She said she was about a block away when she turned around and saw the first tower burning and heard a loud blast from the other tower just as it was struck by the second airplane.

"There was a loud boom and it was like war had broken out," she recalled. To this day, she said, the sound of sirens still unnerves her.

Four days after the attack, she resumed working at Stellar Services, which had moved its office to 5th Avenue in New York. This year, however, she decided to return home to Bacolod for good.

## Headed for work

On Sept. 11 last year, Kilayko recalled, he was headed for work and was two blocks away from the WTC when he saw the first building collapse.

He had been working there as investment banker for five years supervising the work of 10 employees.

"After Sept. 11, I realized that anything can happen to us and that it is important to live life to the fullest with people we care for and love," said Kilayko, who is in Bacolod on vacation.

After the attack, he added, the mere sound of sirens and airplanes and the smell of smoke reminded many survivors of the traumatic attack.

"Sept. 11 changed a lot of people's lives and made those who survived more caring," he said.

He said New Yorkers in the first few months after the WTC attack also became friendlier, but noted that life has since returned to normal.

"People are again less friendly and (more) indifferent—such is life in New York," he said.

# Gov't needs ₱8.6B to repatriate Pinoy workers from Gulf

From page A1

volve 15 countries compared to just 12 when an armed confrontation was threatening Afghanistan following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

"The potential of the conflict at this time is comparable to the Gulf War (in 1990 between Iraq and the US-led international coalition over the Kuwaiti oil fields)," the source said.

He said there should be no cause for alarm over the stiff monetary requirements for the effective repatriation of the overseas Filipino workers.

"We have to understand that this is based on a worst-case scenario so it really has to be that high. From our experience, there would still be ample support from other groups with regard to these concerns," the source said.

The DFA has sent word to the overseas Filipino workers in the Middle East and their families in the country that it is ready to undertake their repatriation should the Iraqi crisis deteriorate into a shooting war with the United States.

"The families of the country's overseas workers in the region should not panic," a Malacañang statement quoted Foreign Secretary Blas Ople as saying.

He said all Philippine embassies and consular posts would immediately activate contingency plans for the "safety and protection of all Filipino nationals in the Middle East," once an alarm was raised.

"We know where to put them in terms of holding areas, if there is a sudden eruption of war in the Middle East," Ople said.

He said emergency plans were being reviewed every day since coalition aircraft from the United States and Britain attacked targets at an Iraqi air base south of Baghdad late last week.

Filipinos working in Saudi Arabia were not in immediate danger since officials have assured the government that the kingdom was beyond the reach of Iraqi Scud missiles, the statement said.

However, the statement noted that there have been reports that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein has been building his collection of weapons of mass destruction to include long-range missiles from North Korea.

About 25,000 Filipinos working in the region were repatriated during the Gulf War.

Ople on Saturday said Manila would support a peaceful solution to the Iraq-US row.

"The Philippines continues to support diplomatic efforts for the United States and Iraq to resolve their differences peacefully through dialogue," Ople said. ***With a report from AFP***

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President Macapagal places the crown on the Nuestra Señora del Buensuceso (Our Lady of Good Events) at the St. Andrew Jubilee Church in La Huerta, Parañaque City. The event marked the second anniversary of the canonical coronation of the city's patroness.

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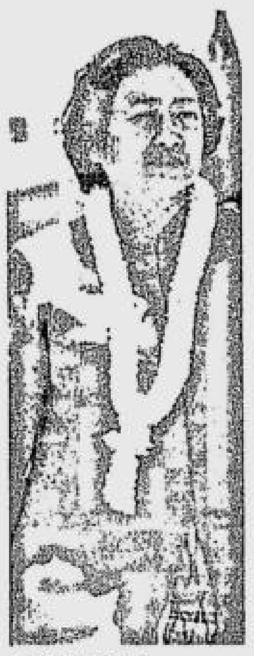
# GMA draws praises from Indonesians

From page A1



MEGAWATI

Malaysia, but in another predominantly Muslim country, she is positively ruling the roost.

Yesterday's edition of the leading Indonesian newspaper Kompas published an article praising Ms Macapagal's "very appropriate politics" in handling the expulsion of thousands of undocumented Filipinos from Sabah.

She had earlier acknowledged the problem, visited the refugees, sent a fact-finding team to detention centers in Sabah and even expressed her personal outrage to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad over reports that a 13-year-old undocumented Filipina had been raped by Malaysian guards.

In contrast, a readers' poll conducted by Kompas in eight Indonesian cities showed that most Indonesians found President Megawati Sukarnoputri's handling of a similar refugee crisis severely wanting.

The poll conducted on 882 randomly selected respondents showed that 66.3 percent believed the Indonesian government did not care at all about Indonesian migrant workers expelled from Sabah.

Another 46.5 percent said the government had "worsened the conditions" for those returning, while 58 percent blamed the government for the current problem.

More than 40,000 Indonesian workers—many of them living in tent cities—are currently holed up in the small town of Nunukan, which lies on the border with Sabah on Borneo Island.

The workers and their families are either awaiting passage home to other provinces or for a chance to return to Malaysia—legally or illegally. Many worked in palm oil plantations in Sabah.

Bad sanitation and limited resources in the overcrowded town have already left at least 33 of the migrant workers or their family dead in the past few weeks.

## Foreign trips

Megawati was also slammed for going to the Earth Summit in Johannesburg earlier this month and continuing with a string of visits to several countries while the refugee crisis continued. She is currently abroad, and is due to return home on Sept. 15.

In contrast, Ms Macapagal canceled her European visits scheduled for next month (albeit on budget concerns).

Megawati has defended her trips by saying that she needed to "reintroduce Indonesia, which has been out of the internal political spotlight due to the prolonged crisis in the country over the past four years," the Jakarta Post daily reported.

Her dismissal of the migrant workers' problem as "something that the press has blown out of proportion," was also widely criticized at home.

The Media Indonesian newspaper carried opinion pieces from several senior journalists and experts criticizing Megawati.

Senior journalist Rosihan Anwar said Megawati's move to blame the press was "unworthy of a president," while communication expert Ade Armando of the state-owned Indonesia University said it was "very disappointing" coming from a president.

"What she is doing is killing the messenger . . . instead of observing the existing facts," Armando said. *AFP*

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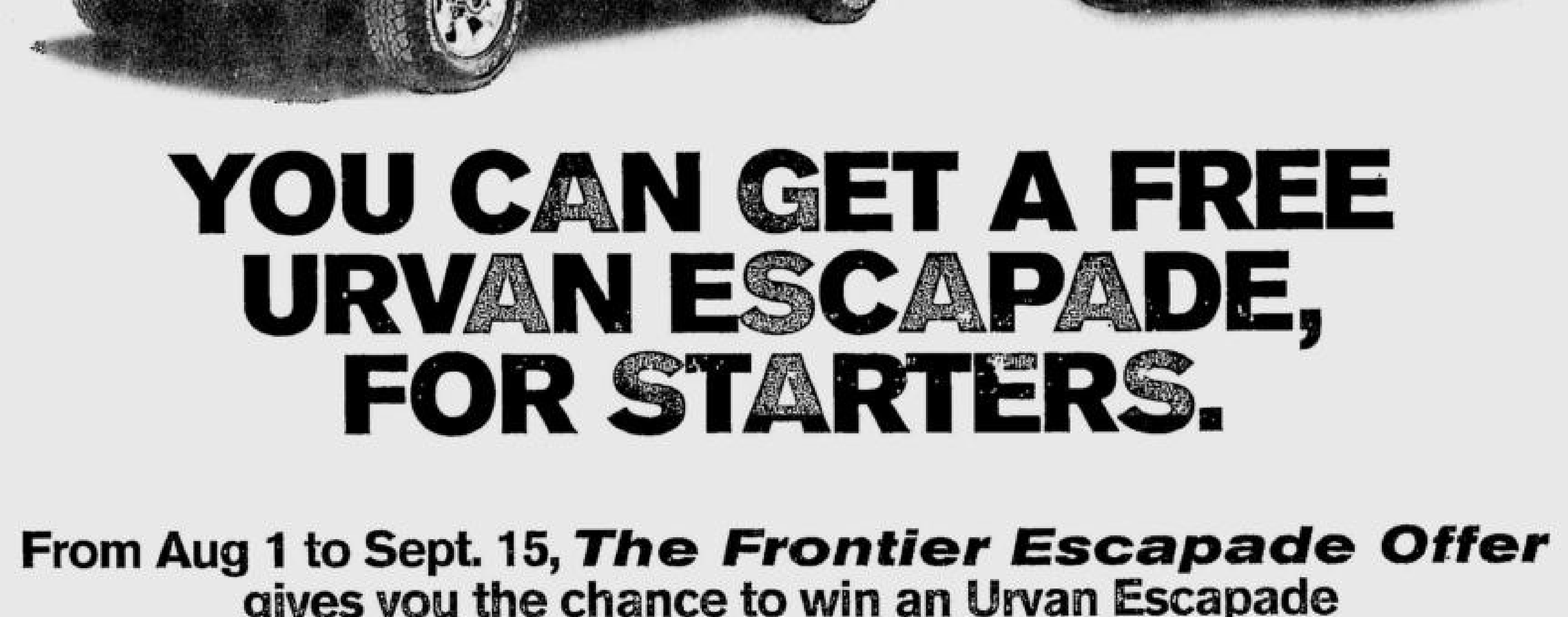

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# Serena wallops big sis Venus

SERENA Williams holds the winner's trophy after beating Venus in the women's final of the US Open, 6-4, 6-3. REUTERS

**By Howard Fendrich**
*AP Tennis Writer*

**NEW YORK—Take that, big sis! Serena Williams confirmed at the US Open what's become clear since spring: She's not just No. 1 in the world rankings, she's No. 1 in her home hierarchy.**

Unabashed about powering the ball and taking advantage of mistakes just as against any other opponent, she easily beat Venus Williams, 6-4, 6-3, Saturday night to win a third straight Grand Slam title—all by beating her older sister in the final.

Before the match, they acted like siblings, with Serena walking around the umpire's chair to whisper in Venus' ear during an elaborate ceremony that included Aretha Franklin's singing and the unfurling of a US flag the size of the court.

And when it ended, they hugged at the net, both smiling.

But between the lines, Serena showed little love for Venus, taking full advantage of her 10 double faults and 23 other unforced errors.

A glance at such statistics might indicate a poorly played match, which most of their previous nine tour meetings were. But like the Wimbledon final in July, they both pounded the ball and chased down each other's apparent winners.

When Venus faced match points at 5-3 in the second set, she wiped out the first with a second-serve ace, and the next by extending for a pretty backhand volley winner.

Two points later, Venus—playing with tape on her right hand to cover a blister—double faulted to set up a third match point. Serena capitalized, sending a booming backhand to a corner, and Venus' forehand hit the net.

Perhaps Serena just wanted it more, an extension of her self-described rededication to excellence over the past year. It has helped her go 4-0 in 2002 against Venus and even their career series at 5-5.

While Venus was quiet and straight-faced throughout the match, Serena displayed plenty of the fire she does when beating other top women.

En route to breaking Venus for a 5-4 lead in the first set, Serena yelled at herself after a poor lob. Later in that game, a 12-stroke rally ended with Venus' forehand error, and Serena watched the ball fall out, then screamed "Come on!" and pumped her fist.

Serena served out the set at love in the next game, capping a string of eight straight points with an exclamation point of an ace at 105 mph. She had a 16-13 edge in winners, but both wiped away countless others with the supreme court coverage they have used to become the first siblings ranked 1-2.

## Turning point

**CLEAN LIVING**

*Manolo R. Iñigo*

BECAUSE this piece was written hours before Game 2 at the Big Dome, I am not in a position to know how last year's Best Import Tony Lang of Batang Red Bull fared yesterday in this nail-biting best-of-seven PBA Commissioner's Cup series between defending champion Red Bull and Talk N Text. But this much I can say: Game 3 on Wednesday could very well be the turning point of this emotional series because both teams would surely go for broke, leaving nothing to chance in their respective quest for the title.

Following their upset win over the top-rated Thunder, 102-100, in Game One last Friday, another victory on Wednesday for temperamental American coach Bill Bayno will boot the Phone Pals' chances of winning their first ever PBA championship in six years, but a Red Bull comeback will turn this epic series into a best-of-five affair, giving Thunder coach Yeng Guiao another crack at the coveted championship he won in grand style last year by beating many-time PBA champion San Miguel Beer, 4-2. In this year's semifinals, Red Bull upended San Miguel, 3-1, while Talk N Text nosed out Alaska Milk, 3-2.

Incidentally, it's not every day that PBA referees earn the nod of the fans for a job fairly well done. But that's exactly what the whistle-totters received last Friday. "So far, so good," said a PBA regular. "I just hope the referees maintain this same level of fearless, honest and responsible officiating throughout the series in fairness to the public and the team owners. The referees should always assert their authority over the players and coaches because they exercise a direct and dominating influence over them."

***

IN FOCUS. The 19th edition of the nationwide Coke Go-for-Goal football program is ongoing in various parts of the country. A big boost in sports promotion in the Philippines, it is one of the most widely followed and popular projects for the under-16 Filipino youth. From an initial 80 teams in the fold, more than 400 schools are now participating, thanks largely to lawyer Rene Adad, president of the Philippine Football Federation who was recently appointed deputy chef de mission of the national delegation to the Busan Asian Games. Also playing important roles in the multi-awarded program are Coca-Cola Export External Affairs director JB Baylon and project director Jojo Rodriguez . . . Defending champion Efren "Bata" Reyes heads the stellar cast of invited billiards players that will see action in the 5th World Pool League in Warsaw, Poland, on Oct. 25-27.

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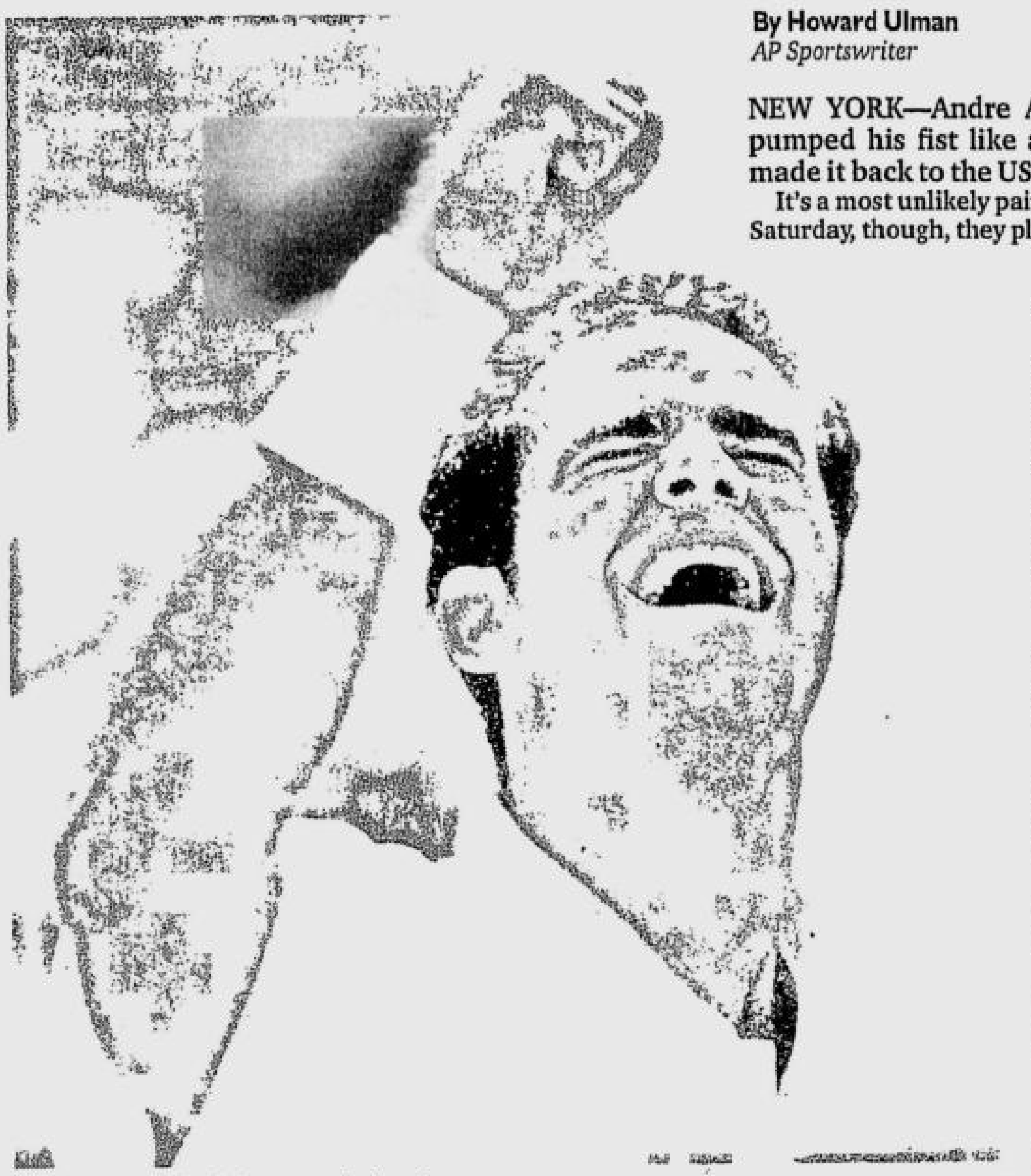
## OLD-TIMERS' DAY

# Sampras, Agassi forge dream US Open final



SAMPRAS: Andre brings out the best in me. REUTERS

**By Howard Ulman**
*AP Sportswriter*

**NEW YORK—Andre Agassi ran like a kid, Pete Sampras pumped his fist like a rookie, and the two old Americans made it back to the US Open final.**

**It's a most unlikely pairing of players who are past their peaks. On Saturday, though, they played as if they were still on top.**

"We're both here again," Agassi said. "It's going to be a blast."

They've met in two previous US Open finals, Sampras winning in 1990 and 1995. They're back with shot-making reminiscent of those days and energy suited for players 10 years younger.

The 32-year-old Agassi beat 21-year-old defending champion Lleyton Hewitt of Australia, 6-4, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (1), 6-2. Sampras, 31, beat Sjeng Schalken of the Netherlands, who turns 26 Sunday, 7-6 (6), 7-6 (4), 6-2.

The final Sunday (Monday in Manila) will produce the oldest US Open champion since Ken Rosewall, who was 35 when he won in 1970.

### Huge moment

Sampras said the match would be "a huge moment for both of us, for the game, two older players, two rivals over the years. He brings out the best in me."

The crowd should be split in its sentiment but, for a change, Agassi won't root for Sampras.

"We've grown up together. You hear all this talk about his game, where he's at, where he's not at," Agassi said. "Inside my own heart and mind, I've been pulling for him."

It will be a clash of styles.

Sampras beat Schalken with powerful serves and aggressive volleying at the net. Agassi knocked off the top-seeded Hewitt with patient baseline play and timely rushes.

Sampras beat Agassi in the Open quarterfinals last year and holds a 19-14 lead in their career matches. But Agassi is having a much better year, having won four titles.

Sampras is winless in more than two years after winning Wimbledon in July 2000 and lost there in the second round this year. Seeded just 17th, he's fired up for the Open, where he won four times and was runner-up the last two years.

Agassi, seeded sixth, was in trouble several times. But he responded, finally winning when he broke Hewitt's serve for the third consecutive time.

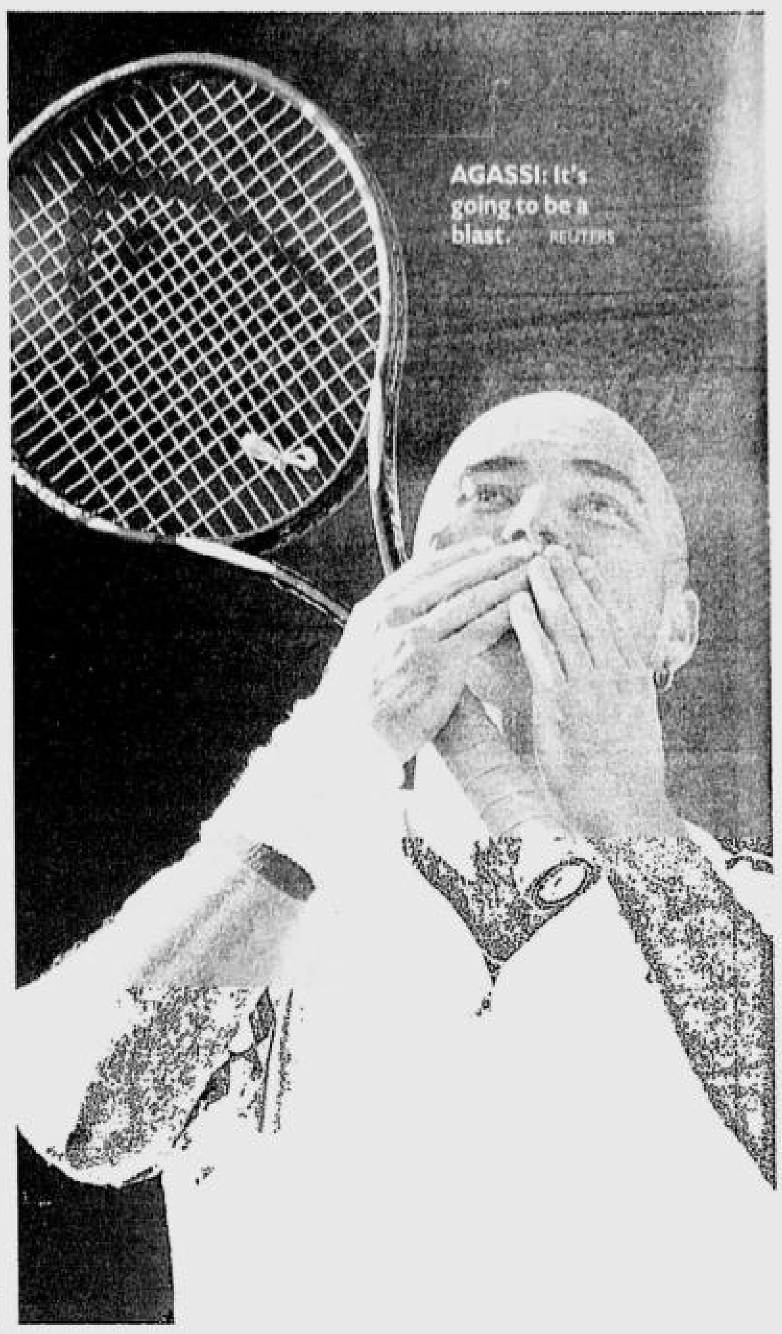
### Bald whirlwind

Ahead 0-40 in the final game, Agassi lost the next two points. On a hot day, the bald whirlwind finally closed out the match in 2 hours, 59 minutes with a forehand winner to the corner.

He raised both arms, smiled weakly and shook hands with Hewitt. Only then, as the cheers that boosted him throughout the last game grew, did he raise both arms, pump his fist and blow kisses to the crowd.

"Nothing in my career compares to playing against Pete," Agassi said. "Pete's the best I've ever played against, and that forces you to get that little special rush of blood that makes you do that thing that's special."

Agassi won the last four games against his Australian opponent and took 11 of the last 12 points.



AGASSI: It's going to be a blast. REUTERS

# First Gentleman's Circuit kickoff leg at Sta. Elena

STA. ELENA stages the kickoff leg, Tagaytay Midlands joins in as a first-time host and four other exclusive clubs are set to put their championship courses in the spotlight in the inaugural First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit which comes off the wraps next month.

The Oct. 5-8 series opener will mark the reentry of Sta. Elena as host of the pro tour after nearly five years while the Midlands leg will give the pros the chance to face the many challenges of the hillside layout.

The full schedule of the pro tour revival was finalized by the organizing committee headed by Ogie Manalo and SP Malbarosa recently with six legs making up the Luzon stage and another six for the southern swing that will keep local pros busy for the next six months.

Being revived through the combined efforts of the First Gentleman Foundation Inc., the Federation of Golf Clubs (Phils.) Inc. and the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines, the pro tour gives back to local pros idled for almost two years now by the lack of sponsors their livelihood.

From Sta. Elena, the tour moves to Sherwood Hills for the second leg on Oct. 22-25 then takes the Halloween break. It goes to Canlubang for the third leg on Nov. 5-8 before making way for the UBIX pro-am at Riviera on Nov. 10-23.

Each leg will have total prize money of P500,000 with P100,000 going to the champion.

Comelec chair Ben Abalos, commissioner of the PGAP, said that the 12-leg schedule should be long enough to prepare the pros for the big one which is the dollar-denominated Wack Wack Philippine Open on March 6-9.

The complete schedule: Oct. 15-18 Sta. Elena, Oct. 22-25 Sherwood Hills, Nov. 5-8 Canlubang, Nov. 26-29 Sta. Barbara, Dec. 3-6 Marapara, Dec. 10-13 Cebu CC, Jan. 14-17, 2003 Pueblo del Oro, Jan. 21-24, 2003 Davao, Jan. 28-31, 2003 Zamboanga, Feb. 11-14, 2003 Orchard, Feb. 18-21, 2003 Tagaytay Midlands, Feb. 24-28, 2003 Manila Southwoods, March 6-9 Wack Wack-Philippine Open. *Jong Arcano*

# Eagle Ridge guns for 3-peat

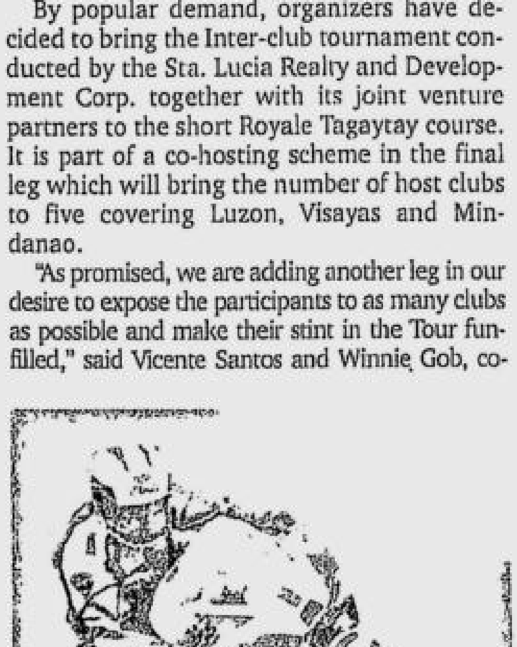
THE EAGLE Ridge Golf and Country Club will shoot for a historic three-peat when the third season of the Sta. Lucia Golf Tour is staged

By popular demand, organizers have decided to bring the Inter-club tournament conducted by the Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Corp. together with its joint venture partners to the short Royale Tagaytay course. It is part of a co-hosting scheme in the final leg which will bring the number of host clubs to five covering Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

"As promised, we are adding another leg in our desire to expose the participants to as many clubs as possible and make their stint in the Tour funfilled," said Vicente Santos and Winnie Gob, co-chairmen of the Sta. Lucia Tour.

The 2003 Tour starts Oct. 3-5 at the Rancho Palos Verdes Golf and Country Club in Davao, moves to the Alta Vista Golf and Country Club in Cebu on Nov. 7-9 before winding up with the final leg where Royale Tagaytay, the Orchard Golf and Country Club and the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club will be involved in a unique triple-venue treat.

Tournament director Andy Dumlao bared that starting this year, the Molave point system will be used for the scoring in the interest of faster play. Handicaps will be used for classification purposes only and individual titles in each division will be disputed in gross basis. *Jong Arcano*



**SUPER BIKER**
**Five-time champion Jolet Jao of Shell Advance-Rolex Engineering, shown in action, is already assured of the overall title in this year's Shell Advance Super Bike Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas. Jao swept the seventh and eighth rounds recently.**

# Ucap derby weights submission today

TODAY is the deadline for the submission of weights to the First Ucap Firebird MB-7 Stag Derby at the Mandaluyong Coliseum, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The sponsors are Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan Free Mite, Pagcor and Lakpue Drug Inc.

Qualifying round is slated tomorrow (Sept. 1), while the championship round is on Thursday (Sept. 12)

Hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez, derby host, said that stags to be accepted are those banded from March 1 to 30 this year. Eligible are stags from Ucap, Balbina, Migba, LGBA, NCA, GF-Ban and NGBA.

The exciting race for Ucap's Stagfighter of the Year 2002 award will also start with this derby.

For other details, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 535-2341 and 534-4110.

## SPORTSWATCH

### Woods not on my level—Jones Jr.

PORTLAND, Oregon—Roy Jones Jr. easily retained his undisputed light-heavyweight title on Saturday, outclassing Britain's Clinton Woods, whose corner stopped the fight during the sixth round. "Skilfully, he is not on my level," said Jones, who improved his record to 47-1, with 38 knockouts,in defending his unified titles for the seventh time. "He was very spirited and had a big heart." With few worthy contenders left in the light-heavyweight division, Jones appears to be forced into a move up to heavyweight, and is being linked with a possible match against WBA champion John Ruiz. "People want to see how I fair," Jones said. *AP*

### Sorenstam grabs upper hand

TULSA, Oklahoma—Annika Sorenstam, playing her first tournament on the LPGA Tour in a month, fired a four-under-par 66 on Saturday to grab a one-stroke lead after two rounds of the $1 million Williams Championship. The Swedish superstar has not played since missing the cut at the Women's British Open. After opening this tournament with a 68, she collected six birdies to offset two bogeys at the Tulsa Country Club. With six wins, Sorenstam is the runaway leader in races for Player of the Year, the money title and scoring average. But she has not won since the ShopRite LPGA Classic at the end of June. Lorie Kane of Canada and Cristie Kerr are tied for second at five-under 135. Kane opened with a bogey but followed with seven birdies for a six-under 64. *AFP*

### Rangers match home run mark

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida—Herbert Perry made sure the Rangers made home run history, going deep twice to lead Texas to a 11-2 win over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays in American League action on Saturday. Perry's 20th and 21st homers gave Texas a run of 25 games with at least one home run, tying the major-league mark, which is shared by the 1941 Yankees, the 1994 Tigers and the 1998 Braves. The Rangers have hit 50 homers during the streak and Perry has nine of them. Perry's first of the night came off loser Victor Zambrano (6-7), who left after the fifth having allowed six runs. *Reuters*

## SPORTSTV

**Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat**

TENNIS: US Open 2002 at 7 p.m. on Star Sports
GOLF: PGA Bell Canadian Classic at 9 a.m., 2 p.m. and 11 p.m.on Star Sports
PGA Europro Tour 2002 at 6 p.m. on Star Sports
AMERICAN FOOTBALL: NFL - Dallas Cowboys vs Houston Texans at 5 p.m. on ESPN
BILLIARDS: 2002 International Challenge of Champions at 11 a.m. on ESPN
VOLLEYBALL: 2002 State Farm Volleyball Championship at 2:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

**ARGENTINES** celebrate their 86-80 victory over the Germans. AFP

# *Yugos face Argentines; US 6th*

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana—Yugoslavia overcame a sluggish first half to defeat New Zealand, 89-78, in semifinal play at the World Basketball Championships on Saturday.

The victory put the defending champions into Sunday's gold medal game against an unbeaten Argentina (8-0) team, which earlier downed Germany, 86-80.

New Zealand (4-4) will battle Germany (5-3) for the bronze medal.

"We're going to be playing against the best team in the tournament so far," Yugoslavia coach Svetislav Pesic said.

"Tomorrow we get a chance to show if we're the best team in the world again."

The Kiwis stunned Yugoslavia (6-2) in the opening quarter, taking a 30-19 lead while shooting 64 percent from the field.

The Yugoslavs shot a miserable 25 percent from the field and were clearly reeling despite the support of a noisy contingent of fans.

Yugoslavia managed to close the deficit to 48-39 by the half, as New Zealand continued its strong shooting and showed remarkable poise against their much more experienced opponents. *Reuters*

### Worst showing

Mean [illegible] again on Saturday night, falling [illegible] 75 to Spain in the fifth-place game.

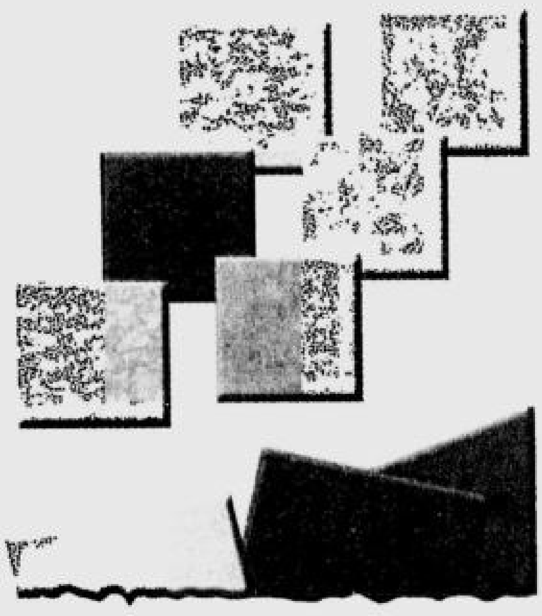
It was an outcome far worse than anyone on the American team ever could have expected coming into this tournament—the worst showing by a US team ever at the World Championships. *Reuters*

# White Horse Homogeneous Tiles For a trendy and classy finish

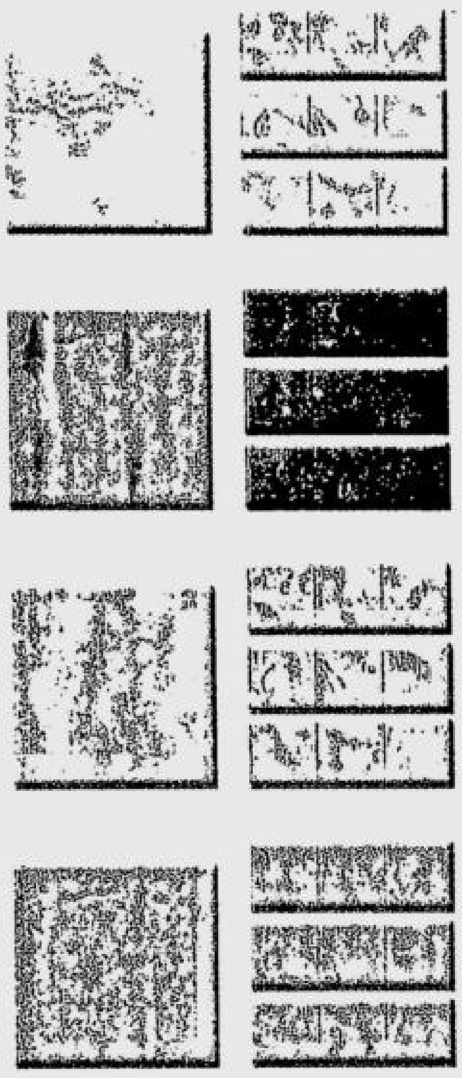
In today's new age in home design, the basic conventional and old-fashioned tiles are a thing of the past. Today's tiles are more than just simple decorative pieces. They now symbolize taste and style. Homogeneous tiles were used previously in commercial areas, such as hotels and office buildings, but they now have the same usage in modern homes.

## Homogeneous tiles give unique visual effects

Patterned floor tiles definitely create a livelier and trendier look for your home. White Horse Multi Effect granite tiles replicate the texture and uniqueness of natural stones. Offered in five different series – *Leonardo, Cinzia, Lombardo, Cellini* and *Verona*, with an exciting range of sizes, surfaces and colors, these tiles are a perfect choice for a touch of nature.



## Non-polished tiles are more popular, with a variety of designs to choose from



Tiles need not be polished for a good finish. Today's fresh and creative change in designs for non-polished homogeneous tiles have become popular due to the variety of patterns available, allowing more creativity in home designs.

White Horse non-polished homogeneous tiles preserve a more rugged touch, closer to a natural look. These can be matched creatively with different colors to create a personal style.

Every year, White Horse leads the market by introducing 6 to 12 new series floor tiles that offer consumers a wider choice.

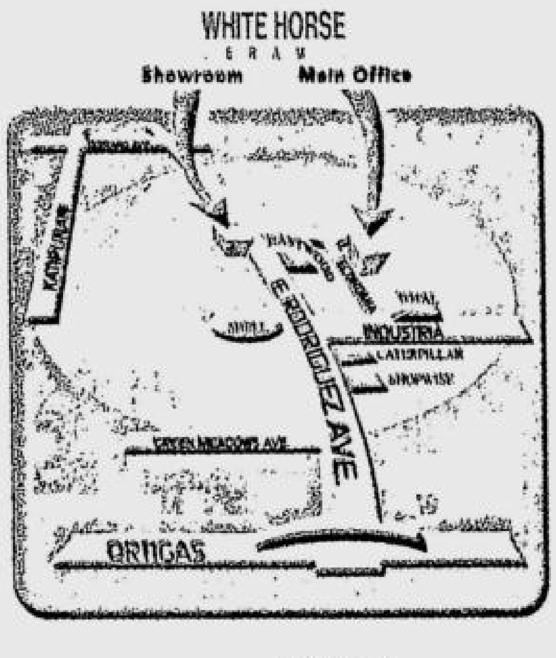
Created from technology that is at par with Italian and Spanish standards, White Horse tiles are outstanding for their innovation. Its highly skilled R&D department is actively collaborating with overseas and local partners to test new materials. Together with the latest manufacturing technologies, White Horse is striving to achieve many breakthroughs as well as to set the trend for the tile industry.

## Quality management and perfect cut

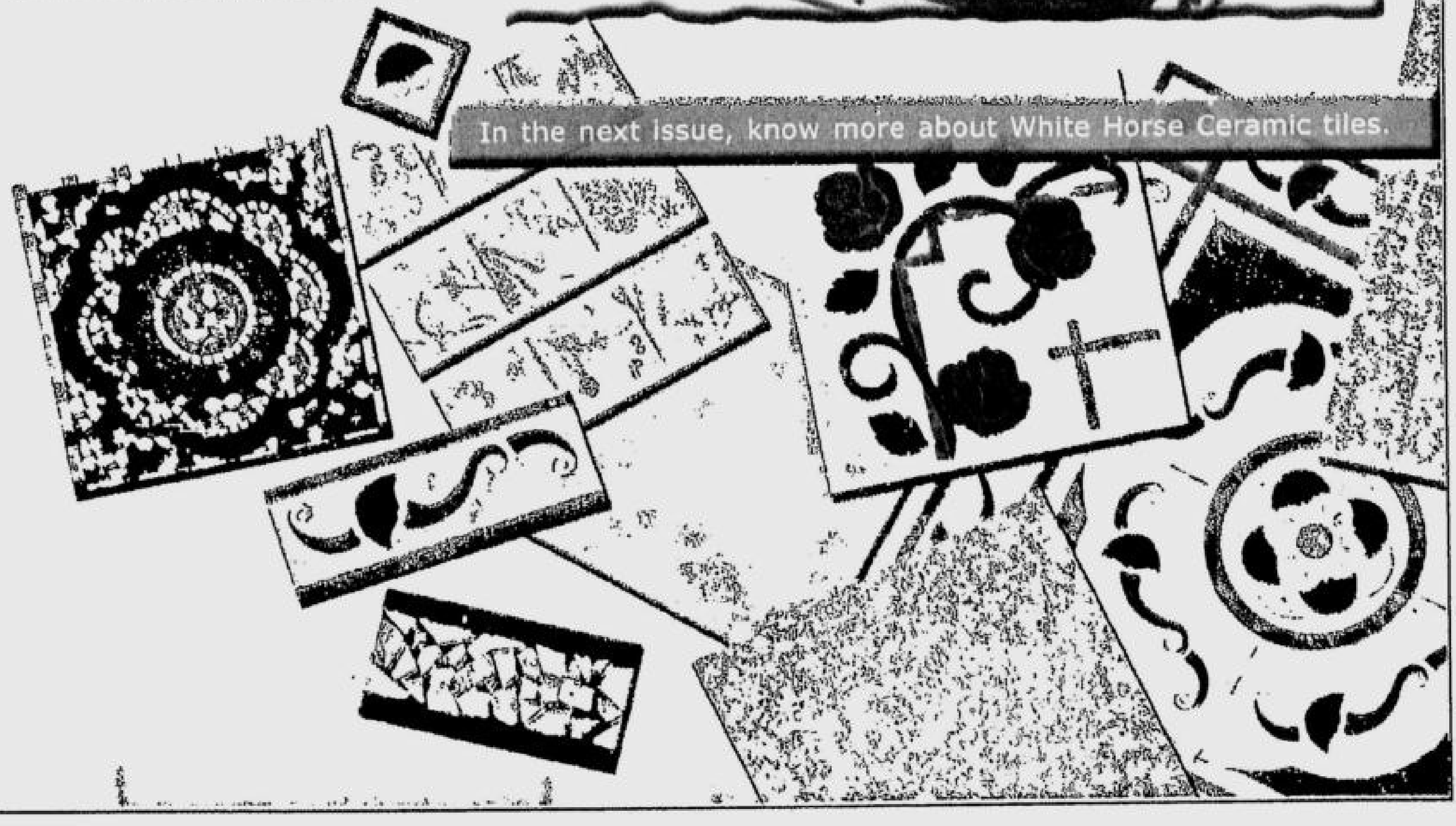
White Horse has been accredited the ISO 9001 standard for quality and management system since 1997. This ensures that White Horse products, as well as the new generation Multi-Effect granite tiles, are made with strict quality control to meet today's high standard. The acquisition of the advanced computer controlled Waterjet-Cutting technology allows both precise and smooth cutting of tiles into intrinsic and exquisite design, which enhances your floor when combined with other tiles.

## Durable and long lasting

Natural stones, such as marble and granite carry a high value because of their natural beauty. However, they have the tendency to leave stain marks and have uneven color and contrast. Tiles, being man-made, are uniform in color and are easy to lay. Most importantly, with almost 0% water absorption body, water cannot penetrate homogeneous tiles easily making it almost impossible to stain. They are also easy to maintain and are more durable and not easily scratched.



*For further inquiries, please visit our showroom or any of our authorized dealer nearby.*



In the next issue, know more about White Horse Ceramic tiles.

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# SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ Associate Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

■ Serena subdues Venus /A20
■ Sampras tackles Agassi /A21

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## PBA FINALS

# Red Bull levels series

**GAMES WEDNESDAY** *(Araneta Coliseum)*
7:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Talk N Text (Game 3)

**By June Navarro**

**BATANG Red Bull soothed its battered pride and sent Talk N Text crashing back to earth with a convincing 96-86 win to even up matters in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup Finals last night at the Araneta Coliseum.**

Tony Lang struck hard like lightning, turning in a game-high 37 points to redeem himself from a lackadaisical Game 1 as the Thunder tied the best-of-seven series at 1-1.

Lang, who got berated for his 14-point output the last time out, joined hands with Willie Miller in the final half to power the Thunder, who bounced back from a 102-100 setback in Game 1.

"We challenged our imports, especially Tony (Lang) and they readily responded to the call not only in offense but also in defense," said Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao.

But while Lang and Miller focused on handling the offensive tasks, Julius Nwosu was busy putting the cuffs on Pete Mickeal, denying the Talk N Text import from having good looks at the basket throughout.

Mickeal, the Phone Pals' hottest player, fouled out for the second game in a row as Red Bull's triple towers–Lang, Nwosu and Davonn Harp–relentlessly attacked the middle.

Still, the 6-foot-6 Mickeal came up with 20 points while Jerald Honeycutt chipped 19 for the Phone Pals, who lost Victor Pablo to a knee injury early in the game.

Pablo fell on his back as he tried to stop a charging Junthy Valenzuela underneath the basket and hurt his right knee.

Willie Miller, Jimwell Torion and Valenzuela also sparkled for the Thunder, burying crucial three-pointers and bridging the third and fourth that took the sting out of the Phone Pals.

The flamboyant Miller knocked in 11 of his 14 points in that span, including three booming triples that broke the backs of the Phone Pals.

**Scores:**

**RED BULL 96**—Lang 37, Harp 18, Miller 14, Nwosu 12, Valenzuela 10, Torion 5, Tugade 0, Villoria 0, Mendoza 0, Locsin 0.

**TALK N TEXT 86**—Mickeal 20, Honeycutt 19, Belano 14, Camaso 9, Pablo 8, Demape 8, Crisano 4, Fran 3, Evans 1, Telan 0, Lago 0.

Quarters: 30-17, 46-42, 76-64, 96-86.

## UAAP

# *Eagles down Falcons, Tigers rip Maroons*

**By Roy Luarca**

**GAMES THURSDAY**
*(Araneta Coliseum)*
2 p.m.–De La Salle vs UP
4 p.m.–UST vs FEU

ATENEO and University of Santo Tomas took different routes in besting their opponents yesterday in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Blue Eagles dominated the Adamson Falcons throughout en route to a 97-67 rout, while the Tigers needed a strong finish to oust the University of the Philippines Maroons, 89-83.

Ateneo thus kept solo third place with an 8-5 win-loss slate and assured itself of joining De La Salle (12-0) and University of the East (9-4) in the Final Four.

UST improved to 7-5 and gained at least a playoff for the fourth slot it is contesting with Far Eastern University (5-7).

Enrico Villanueva again stood at the helm of the Ateneo's rampage with 22 points as the Eagles posted their fourth straight win despite the absence of top playmaker L.A. Tenorio.

"It's a good win. We knew Adamson wanted to come out strong. It's a gdod game before we meet De La Salle," said Banal, hinting that Tenorio may yet play against the Archers on Sept. 14.

**Scores:**

**First game:**

**UST 89**–Vizcarra 16. Gelig 15, Espiritu 12, Del Rosario 11, Luanzon 11, Baguio 9, Hubalde 6, Retuerta 5, De Guzman 4, Manansala 0, Villamin 0.

**UP 83**–Bravo 19, Almeda 18, Santos 13, Inanez 12, Nunag 9, Reyes 6, Cervantes 4, David 2, Arnaiz 0.

Quarters: 26-21, 48-48, 68-63, 89-83.

**Second game:**

**ATENEO 97**–Villanueva 22, Chia 15, Gonzales 12, Alvarez 9, Quimpo 8, Fonacier 8, Intal 6, Cruz 6, Escalona 4, Benitez 3, Tadeo 2, Kramer 2.

**ADAMSON 67**–Mangulabnan 22, Alonzo 13, Hate 8, Abadia 6, Ferrer 6, Tagupa 5, mamaclay 3, Catabay 2, Tiongco 2, Capati 0, gandarosa 0, Rolan 0.

Quarters: 27-17, 50-31, 70-49, 97-67.

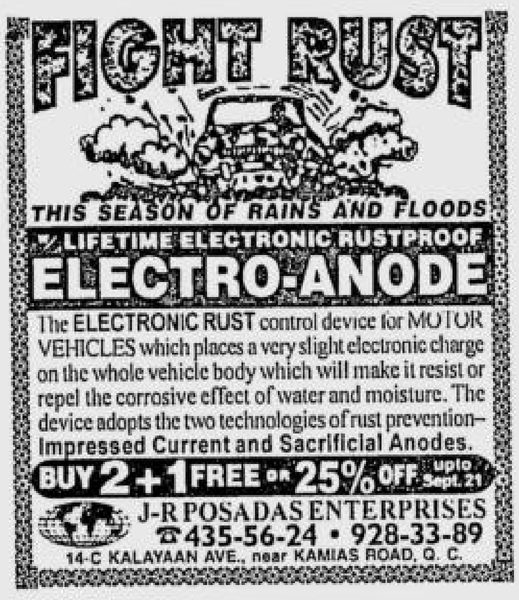
# Benilde scores sweep

DEFENDING champion College of St. Benilde routed Emilio Aguinaldo College, 110-9, yesterday to sweep the elimination round of the 33rd WNCAA basketball tournament at the St. Scholastica's College gym.

The Blazers will face the University of the Assumption-Pampanga Blue Pelicans in the semifinals which begin Sept. 14.

UA-P finished its elims campaign Saturday at 6-3 after whipping Rizal Technological University, 77-46.

Semis format will pit the number one team versus the fourth placed team and the number two squad versus the third placer. The higher-ranked teams have twice-to-beat advantages.



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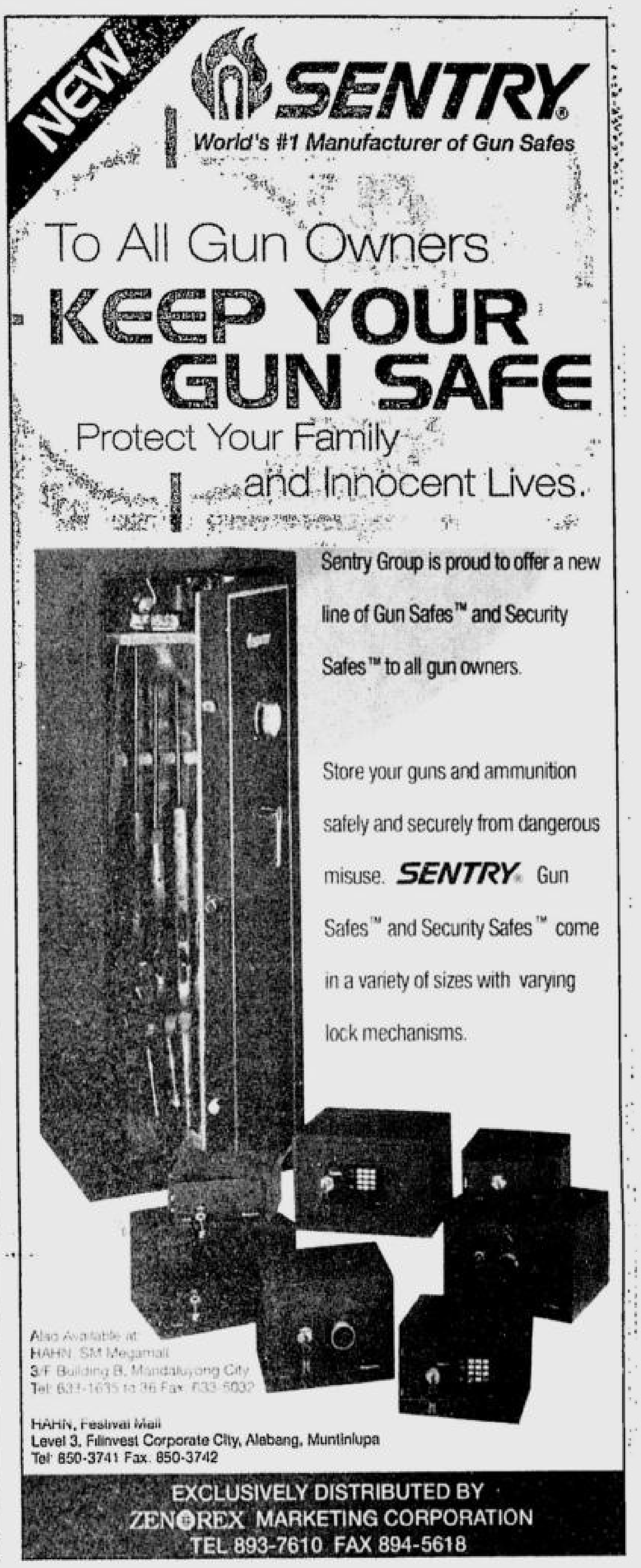

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# Alvarez joins Cebu tourney

SKYWALKER Paul Alvarez will strut his stuff in the Cebu Basketball League (CBL) extravaganza dubbed "The Crunchtime" starting today at the Cebu Coliseum.

Nicknamed "Mr. Excitement" for his thrilling brand of play, Alvarez is currently on leave from his FedEx team in the PBA.

He said he is looking forward to "competitive practice" games as playing coach for Forex Forwarders, one of the four visiting squads that will compete against some of the best teams in Cebu and Mindanao.

Aside from Alvarez, Forex also has in its lineup former professional campaigners Pido Jarencio, Johnnedel Cardel, Peter Naron, Gilbert Castillo and Andy de Guzman.

Carrying the local flag are M. Lhuillier Jewelers and ML Kuarta Padala, two of the most dominant teams in the Visayas.

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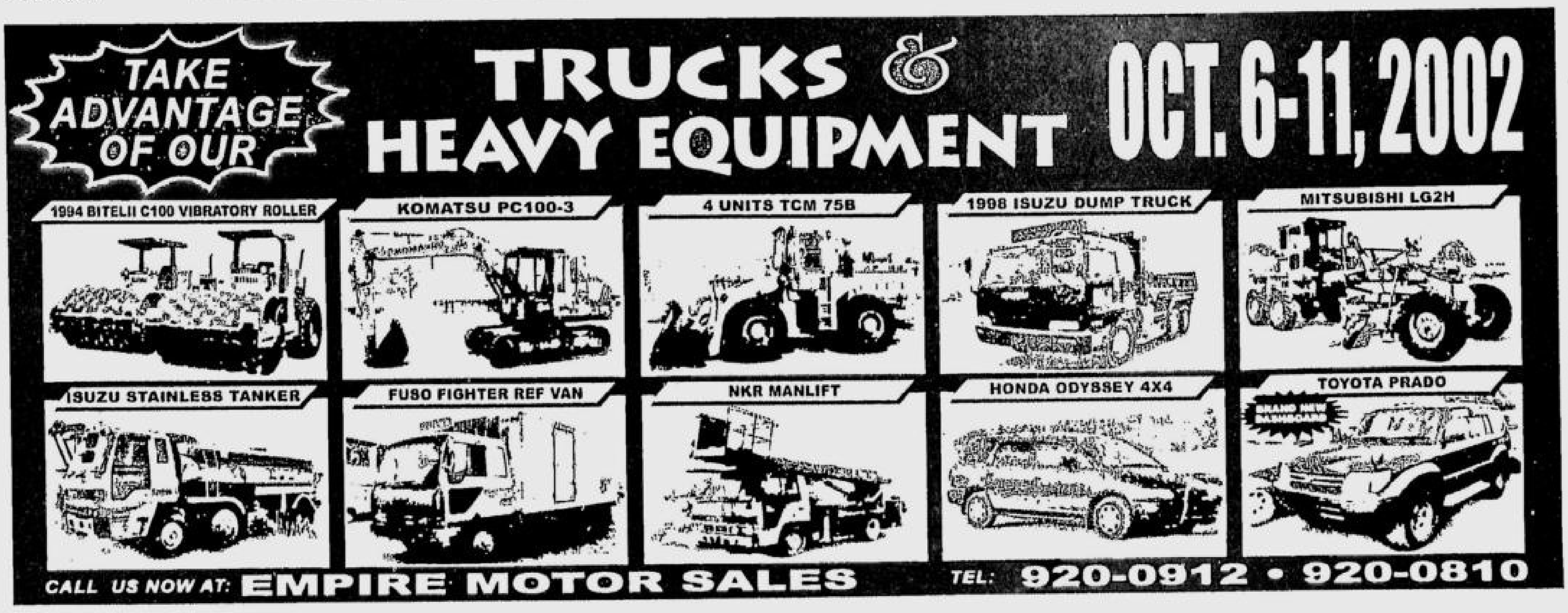
## BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1996, the Philippine sepak takraw team ruled the 8th Governor Isa Cup Invitational Championships in Seramban, Malaysia. Also today in 1996, Iggy Clavecilla shot a System 36 net 66 to post a 2-stroke victory over Francis Gaston in the Class A division of the Johnnie Walker Golf series at Sta. Elena.



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▪ More raps vs Go suspect /26

## METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

▪ Militants back call for fare hike /A27

# ABS-CBN found guilty of piracy

**By Leah Salterio**

THE GIANT network ABS-CBN committed piracy when it aired an interview seven years ago, according to a Quezon City court.

Judge Normandie Pizarro of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 100 affirmed the piracy lawsuit against ABS-CBN for reproducing and airing the interview of starlet Vivialyn Dungca without the authorization of GMA Network Inc. which first aired the interview as an exclusive.

Pizarro's decision was dated July 20, 2002 but GMA-7 officials said they received it only last Sept. 5.

Dungca, the former live-in partner of action star Phillip Salvador, was interviewed on GMA 7's "Eye to Eye" program on Oct. 12, 1995. "Eye to Eye Exclusive" was shown on the bottom of the screen.

On the same day, ABS-CBN's "TV Patrol" aired the same interview, but covered the "Eye to Eye Exclusive" tag with a red bar.

Judge Pizarro ruled that ABS-CBN violated Presidential Decree No. 49 on intellectual property rights.

The judge said ABS-CBN erred when it did not seek GMA-7's permission before broadcasting the footage and when it failed to identify GMA 7 as its source.

ABS-CBN had explained that the red bar on the portion of the video it aired was a computer error, but the judge said this excuse "is (too) flimsy to be given credence."

Judge Pizarro said the "red bar may have been intended to conceal the

ABS-CBN /A26

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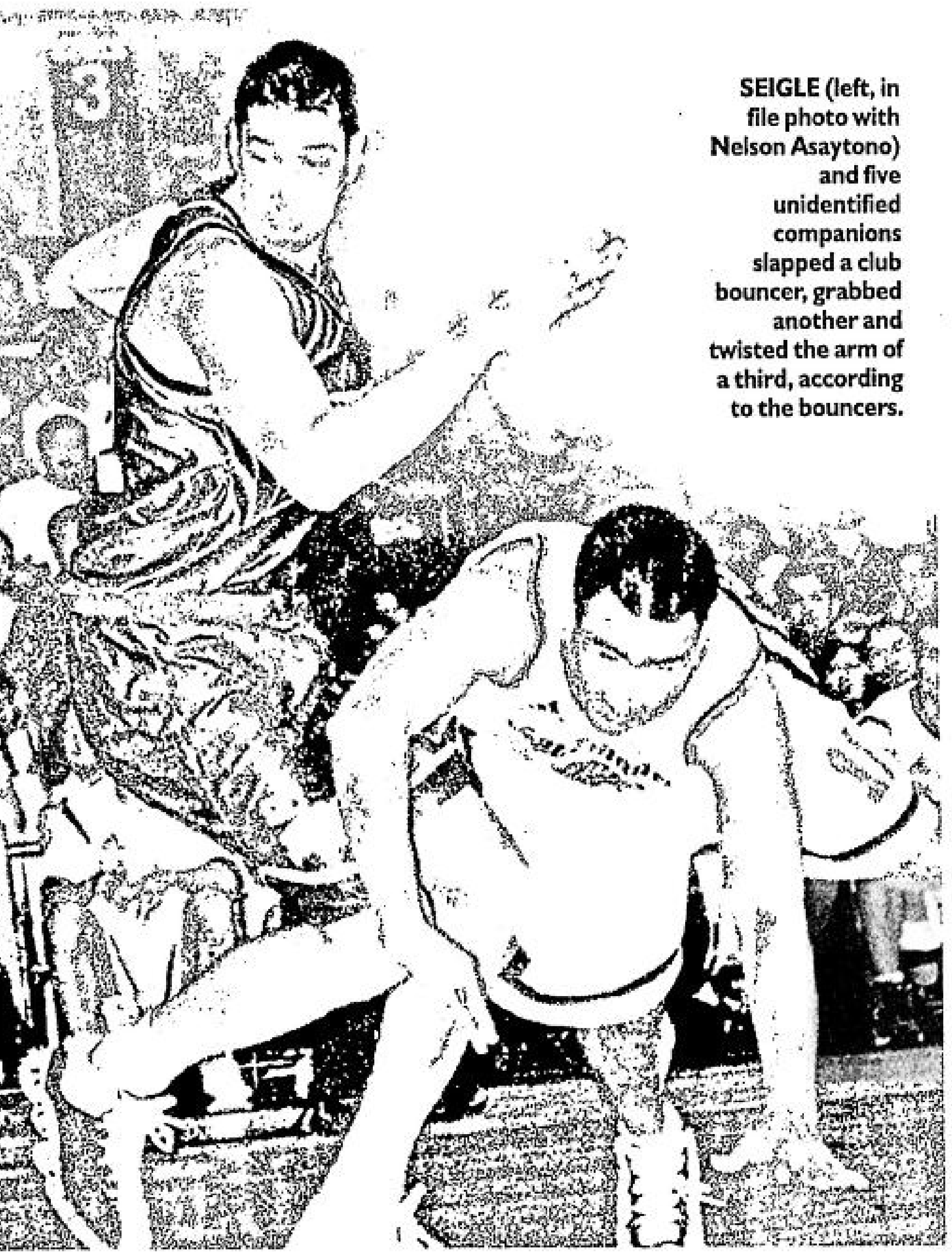

**SEIGLE (left, in file photo with Nelson Asaytono) and five unidentified companions slapped a club bouncer, grabbed another and twisted the arm of a third, according to the bouncers.**

# Family of ex-star gets death threats

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

THE FAMILY of former movie actress Marissa del Mar has been receiving death threats after filing murder charges against three policemen and three others for the killing of Del Mar's brother, also a policeman, in Pasay City three years ago.

Del Mar (real name, Marissa Magsino) told the INQUIRER that burly men on board cars without plate numbers have been casing the Magsino house in Parañaque City since the charges were filed.

Del Mar said unidentified callers have also been phoning her and her family at home, warning them that something would happen to them if they pursue the case.

**DEL MAR**

"They want us to give up," said Del Mar, who appeared in several action movies with Lito Lapid and Philip Salvador, among other actors, in the 1980s.

She retired from show business a year after her 1989 movie, "Mapaglaro."

Del Mar's younger brother, SPO1 Jaime Magsino, was shot dead allegedly by the group of SPO2 Romeo Isidro, a retired officer of the Makati police, on Aug. 7, 1999 on Eusebio Street in Pasay City.

Isidro's companions were identified as PO3 Jesus Bongon Jr., PO1 Ricardo Eusebio, Jojit George Contreras, Remegio Almonte, and Robert Sy.

Except for Al-

FAMILY /A26

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# Andy Seigle accused of beating 2

**By Christian V. Esguerra**

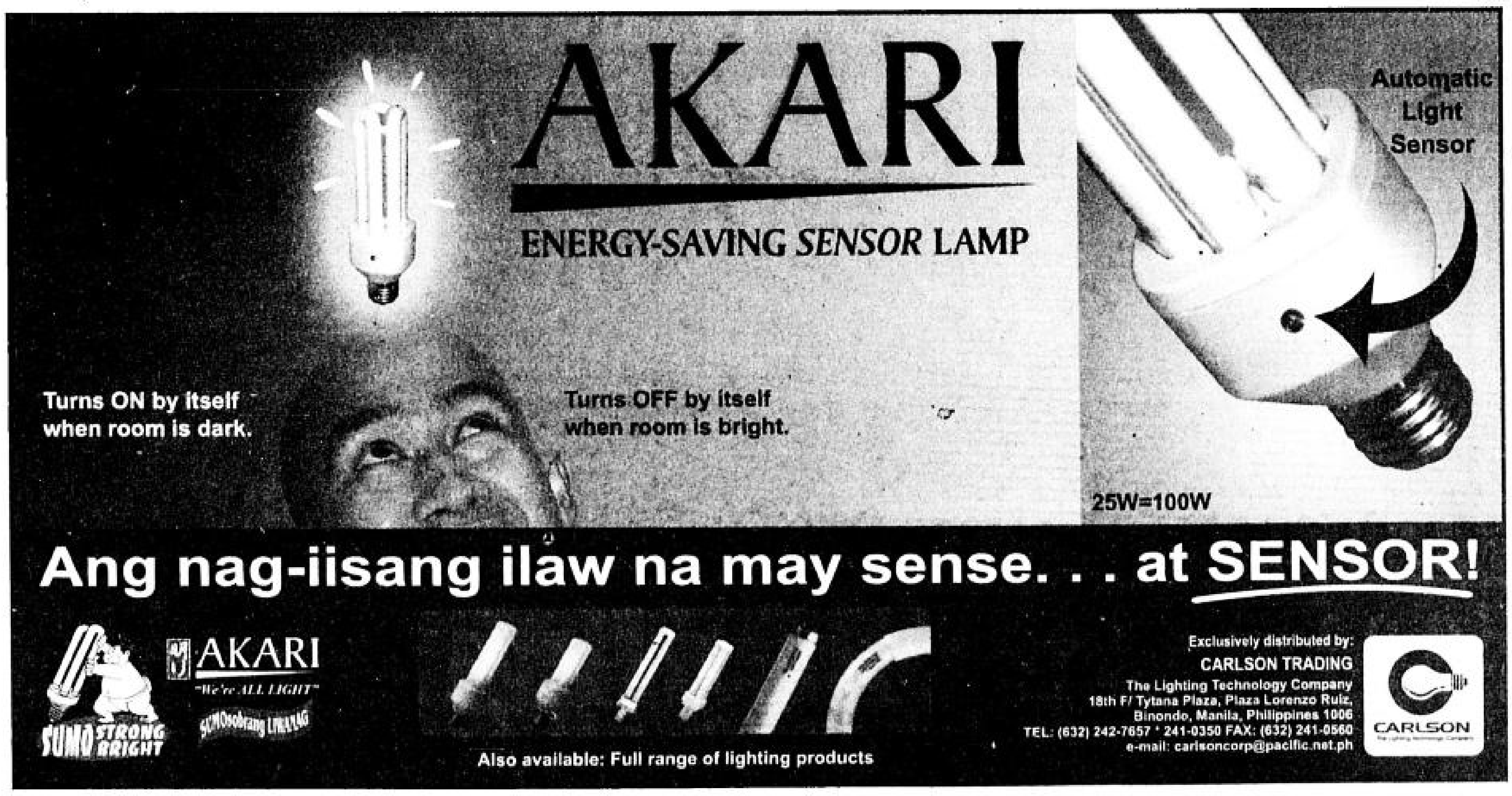
BASKETBALL star Andy Seigle is in trouble again.

Seigle, a member of the Asiad-bound national team, and five other men were accused of beating up two bouncers inside a bar in Makati City early yesterday morning.

In their complaint, Bennilito Benitez, 26, and Miguel Honor, 37, said Seigle and his group ganged up on the two of them after another bouncer had told the group to stop annoying the female customers at Club V bar and disco in San Lorenzo Village.

They said Seigle's group arrived at the bar at 1:30 a.m. and began flirting with girls on the dance floor. Bouncer Lito Moreno said he

ANDY SEIGLE /A27



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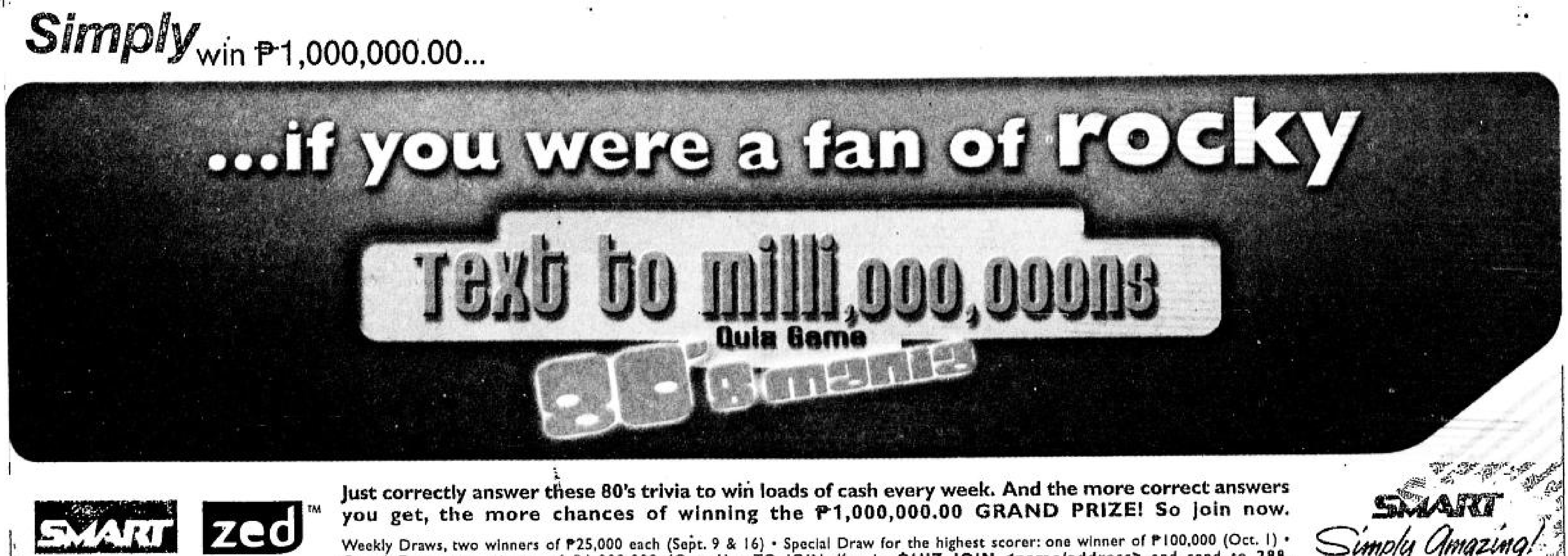

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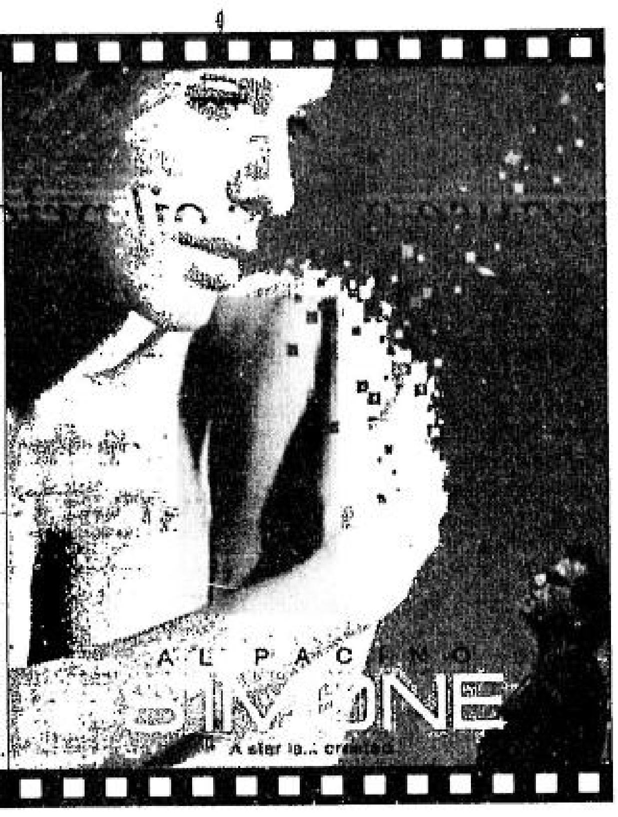

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INVITATIONAL DWTM SCREENING
on September 9, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM MEGAMALL CINEMA 3
MTRCB RATING: P13
Regular showing on September 11 at the SM CINEMAS.
Simultaneously shown at
SM Pampanga

# More raps vs Go suspect

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE WESTERN Police District is throwing the book at the alleged assassin of former Manila councilor Chika Go.

After filing murder charges against Victor Macaldo, 27, the WPD is also preparing to file charges of robbery with homicide and two counts of frustrated homicide against him.

Investigator SPO4 Alfredo Salazar said the police are confident that Macaldo would not be allowed to post bail.

Salazar said the charges of robbery with homicide charges and of two counts of frustrated homicide would be filed against Macaldo for the robbery of a Caltex gasoline station in Sta. Mesa two months ago.

Macaldo, of Molino, Bacoor, Cavite, was the alleged gunman who ambushed Go in Binondo on Aug. 10.

Salazar said he learned that the inquest prosecutor's decision last week to set for further investigation the murder case against Macaldo has been overturned.

"We might get the formal resolution (today or tommorrow) on the murder charges against Macaldo for Go's killing," Salazar said.

He said this would mean that there would be no bail set for Macaldo's temporary liberty.

Macaldo has also been linked to robberies and killings in San Pablo City in Laguna, Las Piñas, Sucat in Parañaque, and in Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Salazar said the police are also investigating Macaldo's alleged involvement in the killing of SPO1 Ding Rellenas on May 1 in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

A witness allegedly has positively identified Macaldo as the one who shot Rellenas.

Salazar said this development would be a big help to a rookie policeman, PO1 Jonathan Abuan, who was accused earlier of Rellenas' killing.

Abuan allegedly "had gone mad" and had been brought to the National Center for Mental Health when he suffered a nervous breakdown after he was accused of killing his fellow policeman. He is now detained at the Manila City Jail.

An investigator said Abuan's parents went to the WPD headquarters last week and promised to return with their lawyer so they could work out the release of the rookie policeman.

# Family...

From page A25

monte and Sy, all the suspects are detained at the Pasay City jail.

A Pasay City regional trial court is set to hear the suspects' motion for bail on Oct. 4.

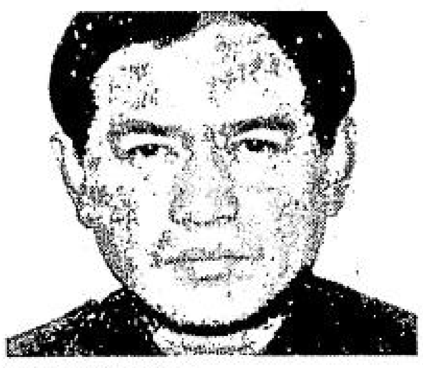
Del Mar's other brother, Christopher, said Jaime was killed for refusing to join the suspects in their alleged illegal drug operation in Pasay.

"Before he was killed, my brother had told me that Isidro and his gang were offering him P30,000 a week just to protect their business," Christopher told the INQUIRER on Friday.

He said that on the evening of Aug. 7, 1999, the suspects phoned Jaime at home and asked him to go to Eusebio Street. When he reached Eusebio Street about 6:30 p.m., the suspects appeared from an alley and allegedly fired at Jaime while he was alighting from his scooter, Christopher said.

He added that the suspects even mocked and kicked Jaime as he lay dying on the ground.

Tricycle driver Rogelio Amihan witnessed the incident and was later nearly abducted, allegedly by the suspects, in Pasig City.


**VICTIM** Magsino

**SUSPECT** Isidro

# ABS-CBN found guilty...

From page A25

words appearing therein."

ABS-CBN corporate communications director Pat-P Daza-Planas yesterday told the Inquirer that they have not received a copy of the court decision.

GMA Network executive vice president and chief operating officer Jimmy Duavit said he was pleased with the decision even when the case was "very old."

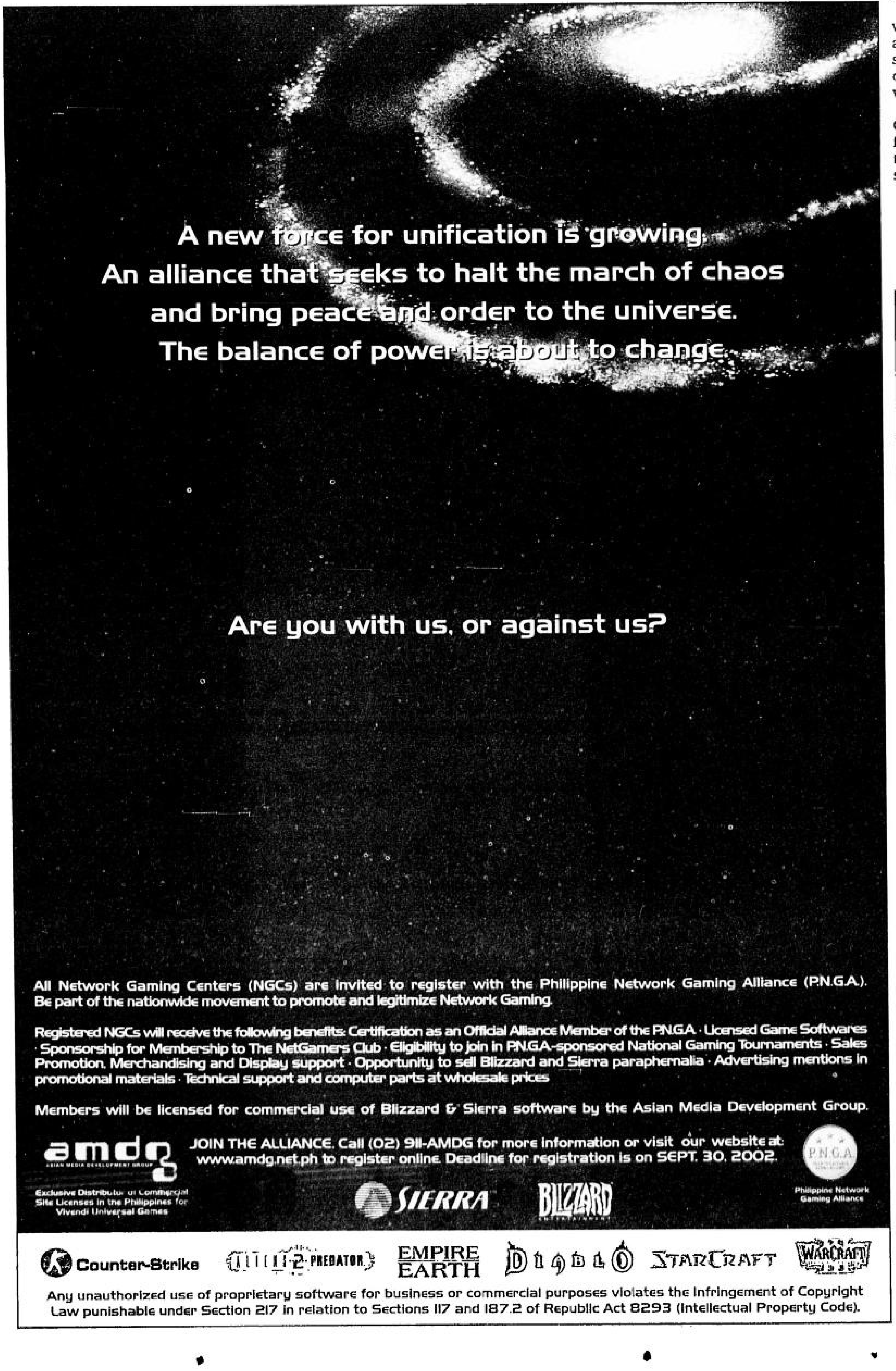
The court ordered ABS-CBN to "deliver to the court for impounding and destruction all the articles with respect to the unauthorized recording of the subject broadcast, as well as the devises for making such recording."

It also ordered ABS-CBN to pay P20,000 for actual nominal and exemplary damages, plus attorney's fees and the cost of the lawsuit.

The decision dismissed the counterclaim of ABS-CBN for lack of merit.

"Eye to Eye" was a show biz-oriented program hosted by Inday Badiday on GMA 7.

"TV Patrol" is the early evening newscast of ABS-CBN.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## BARE EYE

*Recab Trinidad*

Mr. Trinidad is on leave until Sept. 17.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 9, 2002
23rd Week in Ordinary Time

| | |
|---|---|
| **1st Reading:** | **1 Cor 5:1-8** |
| **Gospel:** | **Lk 6:6-11** |

On a sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and began teaching. There was a man with a paralyzed right hand and the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees watched him: Would Jesus heal the man on the sabbath? If he did, they could accuse him.

But Jesus knew their thoughts and said to the man, "Get up and stand in the middle." Then he spoke to them, "I want to ask you: what is allowed by the Law on the sabbath, to do good or to do harm, to save life or destroy it?" And Jesus looked around at them all.

Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out and his hand was restored, becoming as whole as the other. But they were furious and began to discuss with one another how they could deal with Jesus.

Commentary

Luke shows once again in this Gospel episode that Jesus, the Son of Human, is truly Lord. The Scribes and Pharisees, who lost touch with the real lives of the poor, could not match his authoritative teaching and healing. They lost the real and pristine meaning of the Sabbath; i.e., wholeness of life and freedom. Practices arise from life situations and in response to them. They will remain relevant only to the extent that they are deeply concerned with such situations. Otherwise, they become mere tools of self-aggrandizement and dominating control over others. What practices do we zealously espouse? Do they humanize?

*Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)*

## SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

**CIVIL LAW (LAND TITLES AND DEEDS)—Landowner with registered title to land holds title free from all encumbrances not noted in the certificate of title**—As a general rule, every person dealing with registered land may safely rely on the correctness of the certificate of title and is no longer required to look behind the certificate in order to determine the actual owner. To do so would be contrary to the evident purpose of Section 39 of Act 496. This rule is, however, subject to the right of a person deprived of land through fraud to being an action for reconveyance, provided the rights of innocent purchasers for value and in good faith are not prejudiced. An innocent purchase for value or any equivalent phrase shall be deemed, under Section 38 of the same Act, to include an innocent lessee, mortgagee, or any other encumbrancer for value. Respondents claim that, being an innocent mortgagee, it should not be required to conduct an exhaustive investigation on the history of the mortgagor's title before it could extend a loan. Respondent, however, is not an ordinary mortgagee; it is a mortgage bank. As such, unlike private individuals, it is expected to exercise greater care and prudence in its dealings, including those involving registered lands. A banking institution is expected to exercise due diligence before entering into a mortgage contract. the ascertainment of the status or condition of a property offered to it as security for a loan must be a standard and indispensable part of its operations. [Citations omitted] [Justice Panganiban, Third Division, Cruz v. Bancom Finance Corporation, G.R. No. 147788, March 19, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

# Militants support call for fare hike

## *They say drivers need additional income because of the oil price increases*

**By Agnes E. Donato**

THE MILITANT labor group Kilusang Mayo Uno yesterday said they are supporting jeepney drivers in calling for a fare increase.

The group also reiterated its demand for government to increase the minimum wage of workers by P125.

Four major jeepney drivers' organizations announced on Friday their plan to file a petition for a one-peso fare hike, following another oil price increase last week.

"We understand that drivers themselves need additional income, given the series of price hikes implemented by the oil companies," said KMU secretary general Elmer Labog.

Labog said that with the series of oil price increase, it is likely that jeepney owners would raise the boundary they require from drivers, thus cutting the latter's take-home pay.

"Prices of spare parts of vehicles also continue to shoot up and add to the already high maintenance expenses," Labog added.

He urged the government to act immediately on the workers' call for a wage increase.

"Workers need a wage increase badly," he said. "The wage we are getting right now is simply not enough to cover even our basic needs."

He stressed that the current daily minimum wage of P250 in the National Capital Region is insufficient to cover the daily cost of living for a family of six, which he pegged at P530.

"Workers are actually living like paupers," he said. "The very meager wage they receive accounts for only about half of decent living standards. It's barely enough to meet the daily food requirements of a regular family."

The KMU leader also noted that his group has been campaigning for P125 wage increase for several years now but the government has only turned a deaf ear to its calls.

"(President Macapagal-)Arroyo even further insulted the workers' miserable conditions when she rejected our demand for higher wages and branded it as anti-labor," he said.

# Andy Seigle accused of beating 2

From page A25

called the group's attention but a companion of Seigle allegedly slapped him in the nape.

Investigation by PO2 Juancho Ibis showed that the 6-foot-9 Seigle and his companions ganged up on Benitez and Honor.

Benitez said Seigle grabbed him by the sleeves. Honor said one of the player's companions twisted his arm and threw him on a table.

Benitez said he also lost his P10,000 necklace during the melee.

Police are set to file physical injury charges against Seigle and his companions before the city prosecutor's office.

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## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that decisions/resolutions were promulgated by the Honorable Board in the following cases on the date indicated:

| DARAB Case No. | Title | Date Promulgated |
|---|---|---|
| 5061-5062<br>(Decision) | Isaac Quinones vs.<br>Ernesto Nemia | |
| | Isaac Quinones<br>Antonio Rinon | February 5, 2001 |
| 4434 (Resolution) | Roberto Obas et al vs.<br>Roberto Conahap et al. | January 9, 2001 |

Counsels and parties to these cases, particularly the following persons:

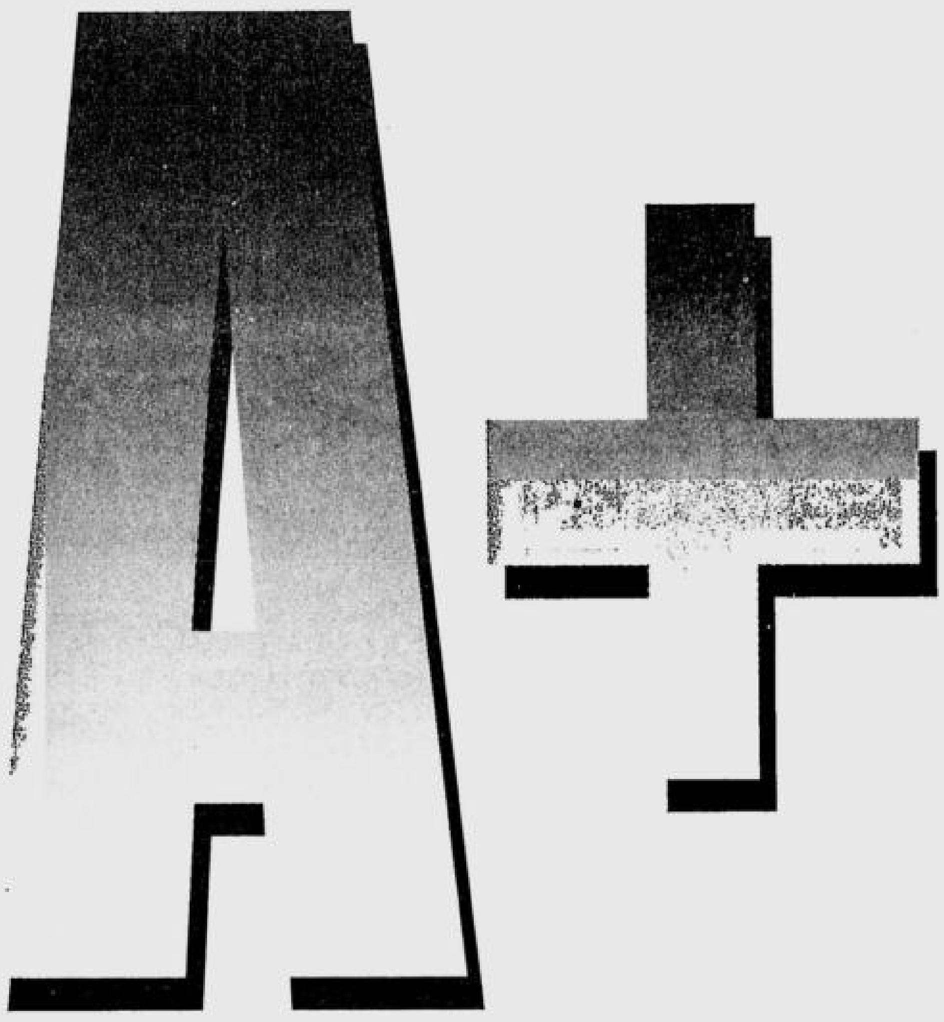
| DARAB Case No. | Party/Counsel | Last known Address |
|---|---|---|
| 5061-5062 | Atty. Friel Rosales | Lomeda Subdivision<br>San Felipe, Naga City |
| 4434 | Roberto Conahap | Brgy. Libertad Escalante<br>Negros Occidental |
| | Manuel Yungue | Brgy. Libertad Escalante<br>Negros Occidental |

are hereby advised to get a copy of the decision from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of posting of this notice, without any Motion for Reconsideration or Petition for Review being filed an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision on these cases shall become final and executory.

August 29, 2002, Diliman, Quezon City

Acting Executive Director
DARAB Secretariat

*September 2 & 9, 2002 – Inquirer*



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# Disney Channel contest finals

DISNEY Channel announces the finals for its contest, "The Teamo Supremo Create Your Own Villain," Sept. 11 at Onstage in Greenbelt, Makati City.

Hundreds of entries were sent by imaginative 4 to 7 year old kids, but only 30 made it to the semi-finals.

The producer and director of "Teamo Supremo," Joe Horne, will fly to Manila from Burbank, California to grace the finals.

## THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

| | |
|---|---|
| **MANILA** | |
| EASTERN | |
| MAXIM | CLOSED |
| MIRAMAR | TAMPISAW / PHANTOM OF OPERA |
| ODEON | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| ODEON-2 | SCORPION KING / LABRADOR |
| ROBEN | BAKAT |
| TANDEM-1 | SUGAT |
| TANDEM-2 | KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO |
| TIMES | MAGINOO / MAGESTIC |
| **QUEZON CITY** | |
| ACT-1 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| ACT-2 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| ACT-3 | ORIGINAL SIN |
| ACT-4 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| CORONET-2 | HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY |
| QUEZON-1 | GAMITAN |
| REMAR | BAKAT |
| REMAR-2 | GAMITAN |
| **NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA** | |
| A | BAKAT |
| B | |
| C | |
| **MANDALUYONG CITY** | |
| SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | 635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70 |
| CINEMA-1 | EIGA SAI 2002: LIFE, LOVE & LAUGHTER |
| CINEMA-2 | AUSTIN POWERS GOLDMEMBER |
| **CAINTA RIZAL** | |
| STA. LUCIA EAST | (681-5401 TO 19) |
| CINEMA-1 | BAKAT |
| CINEMA-2 | DERAILED |
| CINEMA-3 | JOLOGS |
| CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | SPIRIT |
| CINEMA-5 (DTS) | GAMITAN |
| CINEMA-6 | UNFAITHFUL |
| CINEMA-7 | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| CINEMA-8 | AUSTIN POWERS |
| CINEMA-9 (DTS) | TRIPLE X |
| CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL) | BOURNE IDENTITY |
| CINEMA-11 (SDDS) | SIGNS |
| CINEMA-12 | HIGH RISK |
| CINEMA-14 | HIGH EXPLOSIVES |
| CINEMA-15 | JOLOGS |
| **LORES** | |
| CINEMA-2 | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-3 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| **UNIWIDE METROMALL** | |
| (LAS PINAS) | |
| CINEMA-1 | |
| CINEMA-2 | |
| CINEMA-4 | |
| **UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL** | |
| (PARANAQUE) | SENSUAL ISLAND |
| CINEMA-1 | KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT |
| CINEMA-2 | MEN IN BLACK II |
| CINEMA-4 | SELDA |

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OPENS SEPT. 11 IN CINEMAS
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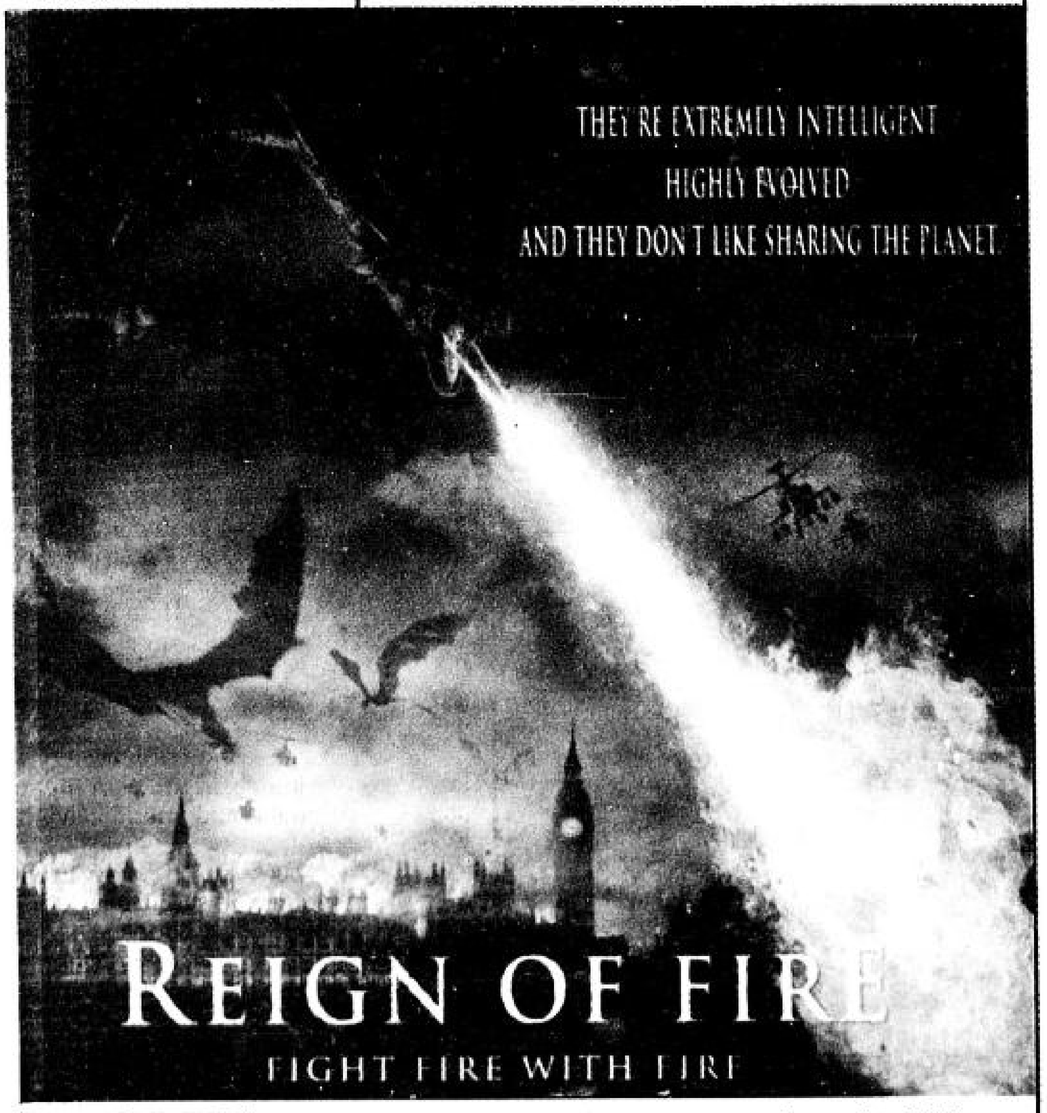
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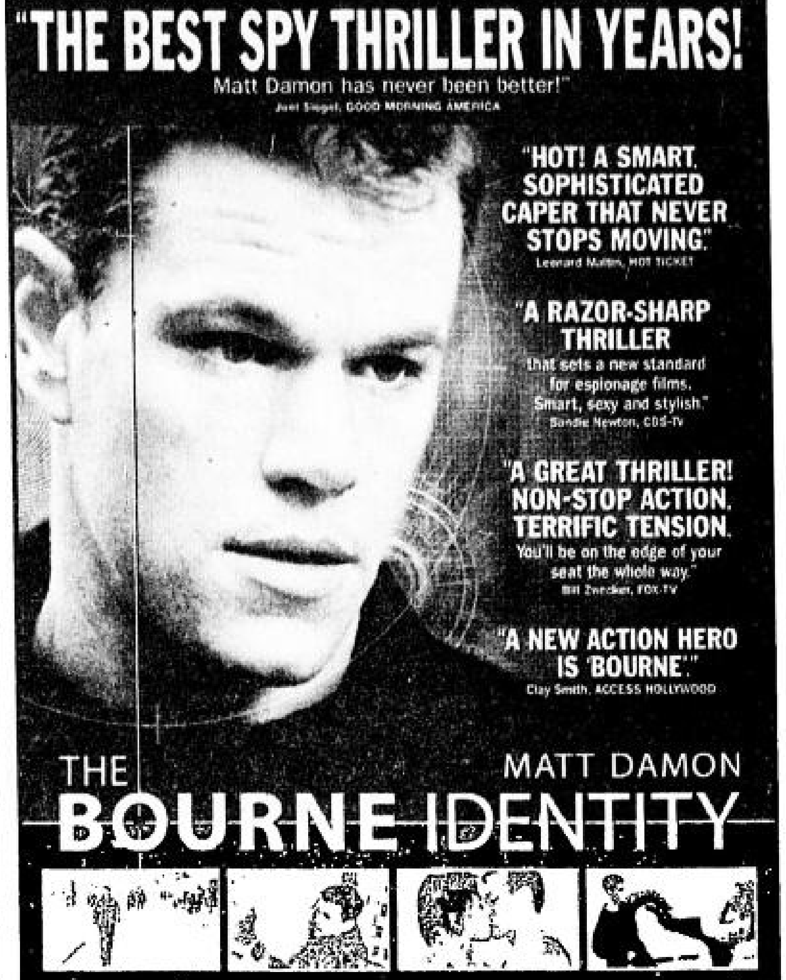
The film contains some violence which young audiences may find disturbing. Parents and guardians are cautioned against bringing children 13 years-old and below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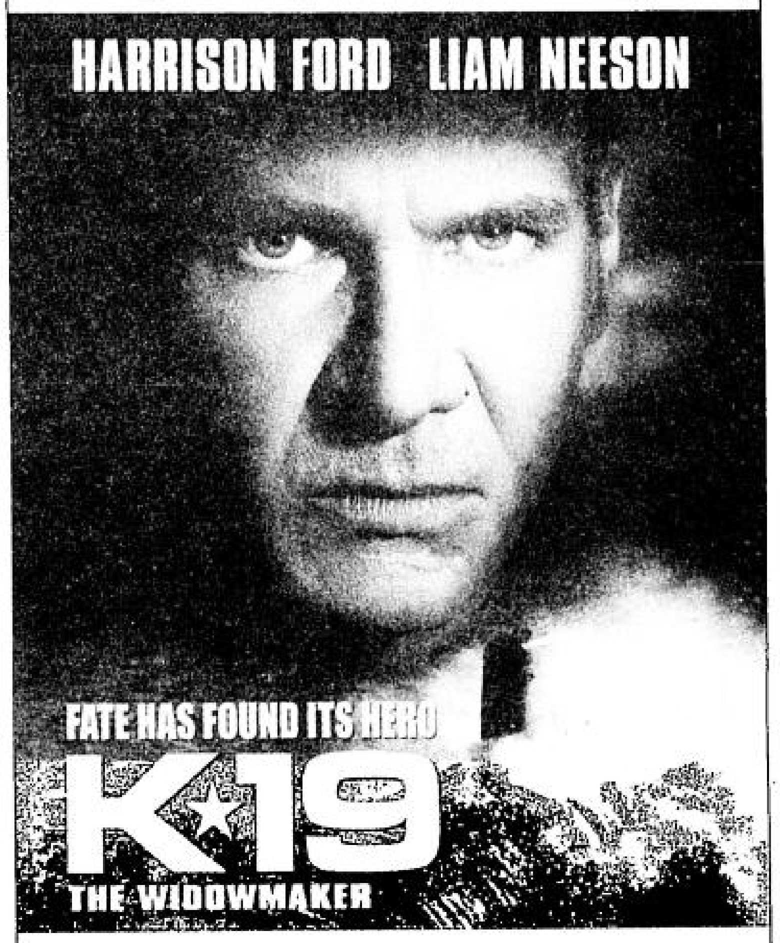
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FATE HAS FOUND ITS HERO
K19
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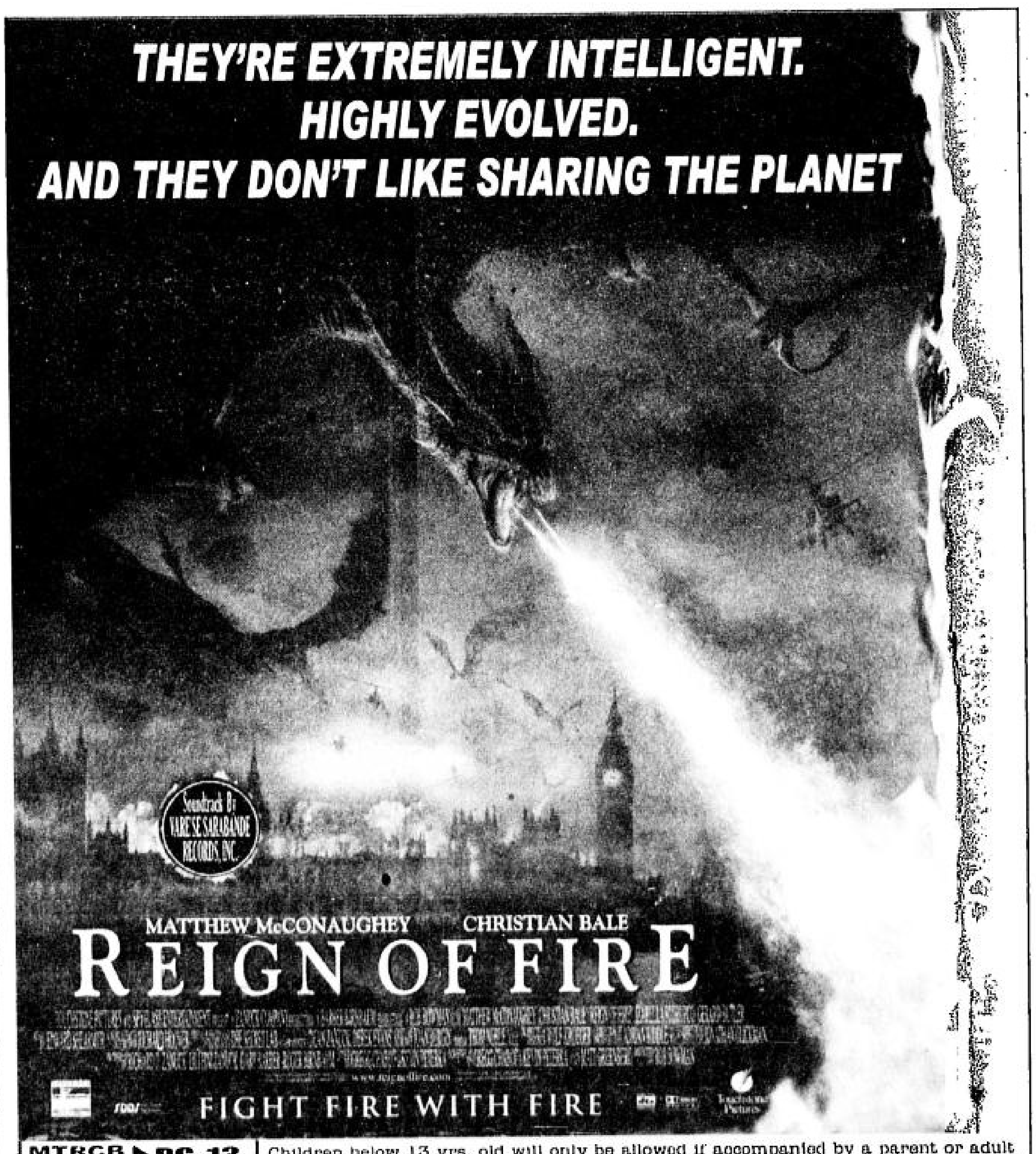
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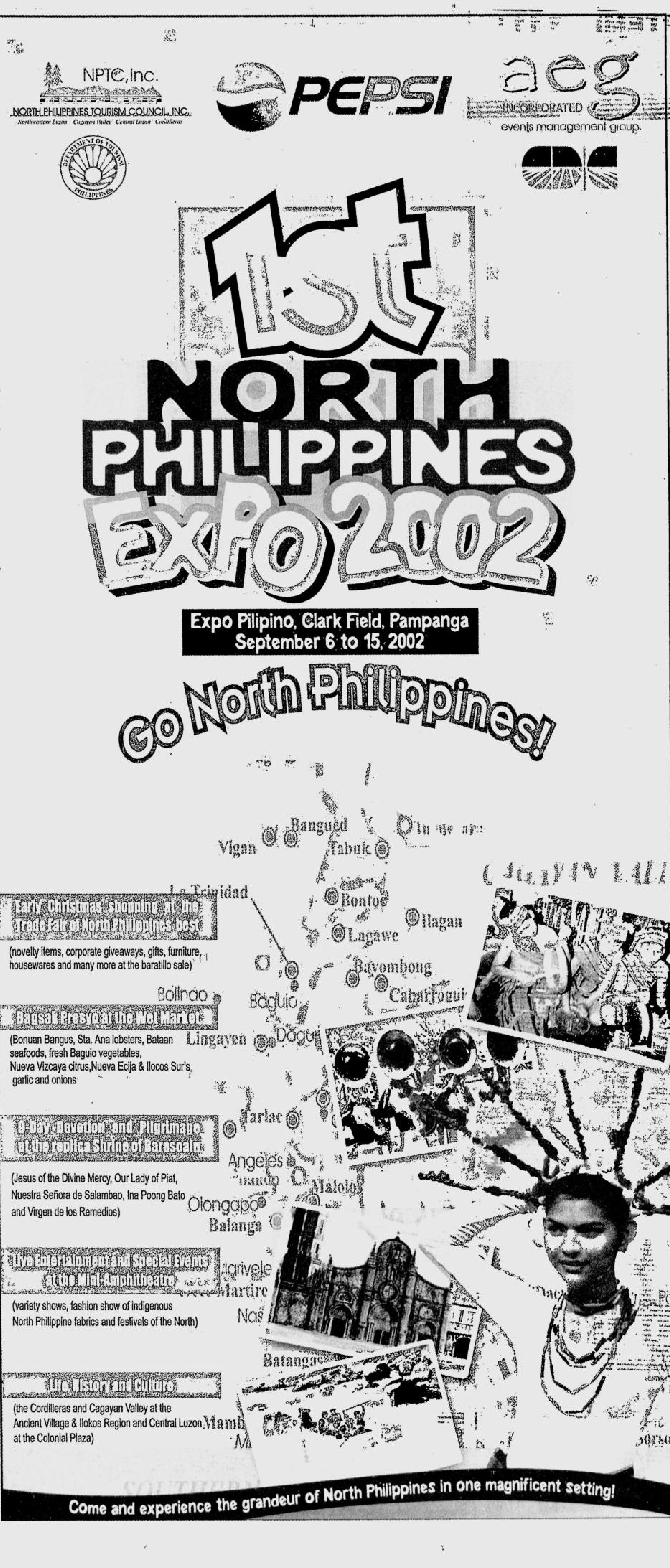

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**DIFFERENT DREAM.** Rage with lead members Juan Miguel Salvador and Marissa Buñag.

# Rage returns without fear

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

*Leah Salterio*

LAST year, the Rage Band made a big gamble and returned to the entertainment scene. Led by original members **Juan Miguel Salvador** and **Marissa Buñag**, Rage was dauntless despite the countless other bands in the music scene.

Rage took a similar risk when it left the country to pursue their "Hollywood or Bust" dream in the late '80s. The band had a farewell concert at the Rizal Theater in 1988.

Rage's vision of going international did not come true. The group eventually disbanded. Marissa stayed in the United States, while Juan Miguel worked in Manila as a composer, arranger and jingle-maker.

After more than a decade, Juan Miguel and Marissa decided it was time to revive the hits of the '80s for today's generation. Skeptics didn't approve of Rage returning and still singing '80s songs.

"They didn't want us to play '80s music because it's not in fashion," Juan Miguel shares. "Someone even gave us a pie chart of the type of music we were supposed to sing."

But Rage is willing to take a chance. Armed with an archive of '80s pop-rock hits, Rage did puesto in the hottest nightspots in town. Juan Miguel and Marissa work the stage as well as the crowd with their trademark explosive, exhilarating performances.

"We thought people might think we're too old," says Marissa. "But we were very fortunate to be accepted by today's audience. We weren't expecting this kind of reception for a returning band."

Juan Miguel adds: "In the beginning, there was this prove-you-can-still-rock attitude. But we showed them that we could revive '80s music. Twentysomething people go with their parents to watch our shows. We are appreciated by both generations."

As Rage's energetic keyboardist and vocalist, Juan Miguel doesn't just play or sing. He jumps, hops, gyrates and soars. No one can sing A-ha's "Take On Me" or Bon Jovi's "You Give Love a Bad Name" the way the youthful looking Badong can.

"I enjoy every song," Juan Miguel says; "so sometimes I take it personally when the audience is so unresponsive. I don't want to be known as just a keyboard player."

The tireless Marissa sings, rocks and spins like a 16-year-old. Her infectious and over-the-top energy always rouses the crowd to its feet. You should hear her stirring version of John Waite's "Missing You."

Rage now takes its adrenaline-rush music even to distant parts like General Santos, where they performed in a well-received open-air concert last week.

The group is set to do a show in Laoag, Ilocos Norte on Sept. 14 for the birthday celebration of Gov. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr.

This month, Rage does Hard Rock Café on Tuesdays, Strumm's Makati on Wednesdays, Rockstar in Libis on Thursdays, Conservatory on Fridays and Dish at Rockwell on Saturdays.

The group is grateful to Dish owner EJ Litton for giving it a chance to perform at the popular restaurant and music lounge on weekends.

With their successful return, however, came Marissa's fear of sustaining the band. The lead singer is also the band manager. Completing the band are **Qnie Alcantara** on drums, **Derek Ileto** on bass, **Tonet Lipana** on lead guitar, **Raymond Leong** on second-keyboards, **Bonggoy Garcia** and **Vicky Salvador** on back-up vocals.

"Marissa looks at the band as a family," Juan Miguel says. "My attitude is that if you don't do good or you don't deliver, we can replace you. But Marissa wants to do everything with a little understanding."

The band looks forward to doing a repeat of the very successful "Martin's Rage" (with Martin Nievera) at the Ultra football field. It also wants to record an album of its classic songs, including "Believe Me," "Whiplash," "Shy Eyes," "Rock Ain't Good Enough," as well as new compositions.

"I have no regrets about being away from the live performance scene for a long time," Juan Miguel says. "I am enjoying the ride."

For sreening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

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| G1 GLORIETTA 1 | G4 GLORIETTA 4 | GB1 GREENBELT 1 | GB3 GREENBELT 3 | ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 SIGNS | AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER | 1 THE YIN-YANG MASTER (EXCLUSIVE) | 1 SIGNS 11:40, 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00, 11:20 | 1 THE BOURNE IDENTITY |
| 2 THE BOURNE IDENTITY | 2 UNFAITHFUL | 2 HAPPY TIMES (Exclusive) | 2 THE BOURNE IDENTITY 12:20, 3:05, 5:50, 8:35, 11:20 | 2 THE ROOKIE |
| 3 LILO & STITCH | 3 SIGNS 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 | Onstage GARY V: HITS @ ONSTAGE - SEP. 6,20, 26 & 27 | 3 THE ROOKIE 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:20 | 3 SIGNS |
| 4 JOLOGS | 4 DERAILED | | 4 AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20 | 4 AUSTIN POWERS IN GOLDMEMBER |
| | 5 THE ROOKIE | | 5 THE BOURNE IDENTITY 11:40, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:40 | 5 JOLOGS |
| | 6 THE BOURNE IDENTITY | | | |
| | 7 TRIPLE X | | | |

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1 (DOLBY) HIGH RISK
2 (SDDS) TRIPLE X
3 (DTS) HIGH EXPLOSIVE
4 GOLD (DTS) THE ROOKIE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) BOURNE IDENTITY
6 GOLD (SDDS) SIGNS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) AUSTIN POWER-3
8 GAMITAN
9 LILO & STITCH
10 JOLOGS

### Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486
1
2
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

### Masagana CINEMA 1 2 & 3
(Pasay) tel [illegible]
TEL. 551 63 87
1 BAKAT
2 BOURNE IDENTITY
3 HIGH RISK

### starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986
1 HIGH RISK
2 JOLOGS
3 GAMITAN
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BOURNE IDENTITY
5 BAKAT

### METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285
1 DERAILED
2 GAMITAN
3 BAKAT
4 BOURNE IDENTITY
5 HIGH RISK
6 JOLOGS
7
8

### PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) tel 751.2010 to13
BOURNE IDENTITY
SEPTEMBER 4, 5, 6, WED.THUR, FRI.
TIME : 5:30 PM, 8:30 PM, 10:30.
5:30 PM, 8:00 PM, 10:30 PM.

### Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 JOLOGS
2 LILO & STITCH

### FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515
1
2 AMBISYOSA
3

### Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 GAMITAN
2
3
4

### GOTESCO CINEMA

### Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588
1 (SDDS) JOLOGS
4 GAMITAN
5 HIGH RISK
6 BAKAT
7 (DTS) AUSTIN POWER-3
8 (SDDS) SIGNS
9 (DOLBY) BOURNE IDENTITY

### Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 RESERVE

### Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 365.7928
1 BAKAT
2 JOLOGS
3 GAMITAN
4 (SDDS) BOURNE IDENTITY
5 JOLOGS
6 (DOLBY) SIGNS
7 (DTS) HIGH RISK
8 TRIPLE X
9 DERAILED

### Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082
4 JOLOGS
5 (SDDS) HIGH RISK
6 (DTS) BAKAT
7 (DOLBY) BOURNE IDENTITY
8 GAMITAN

### Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 HIGH RISK
2 BAKAT
3 (DTS) JOLOGS
4 GAMITAN
5 (SDDS) BOURNE IDENTITY

### Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 BAKAT

### Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 BAKAT

### Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson HIGH RISK
Lords HIGH EXPLOSIVE
Jennet RESERVE

### MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 HIGH RISK
2 BOURNE IDENTITY
3 BAKAT

### Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) BOURNE IDENTITY
2 HIGH RISK
3 GAMITAN
4 JOLOGS
5 BAKAT

### FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)
1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

### Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 BAKAT
2 BOURNE IDENTITY

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
### Araneta center MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400
1 JOLOGS
2 GAMITAN
3 (DOLBY DIGITAL) BOURNE IDENTITY
4 (SDDS) SIGNS
5 (DTS) TRIPLE X
6 AUSTIN POWER
7 HIGH RISK

### FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
tel 911.3101 loc. 821/8242/8400
1 BAKAT
2 BOURNE IDENTITY

### CINEMA 2000

### Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 BAKAT
2 JOLOGS
3 (DTS) BOURNE IDENTITY

### Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7983
1 JOLOGS
2 (DTS) AUSTIN POWER
3 (DOLBY) BOURNE IDENTITY
4 SIGNS

### Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 JOLOGS
2 (DOLBY) SIGNS
3 (DTS) BOURNE IDENTITY
4 AUSTIN POWER

### Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 JOLOGS
2 GAMITAN
3 SIGNS
4

### Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729
1 GAMITAN
2 JOLOGS
3 (DOLBY) KILLING ME SOFTLY
4 (DTS) DERAILED

### Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305
1 GAMITAN
2 DERAILED
3 JOLOGS

### Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 DERAILED
2 BAKAT
3 HIGH EXPLOSIVE
4 HIGH RISK

### Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) BOURNE IDENTITY
2 JOLOGS
3 (DTS) AUSTIN POWER-3
4 GAMITAN
5 BAKAT

### Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 JOLOGS
2 BOURNE IDENTITY
3 BAKAT

### Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558
1 BAKAT
2 JOLOGS
3 BOURNE IDENTITY

### Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3233
1 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
2 JOLOGS
3 TRIPLE X
4 GAMITAN

### Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) BAKAT
2 (DTS) RESERVE

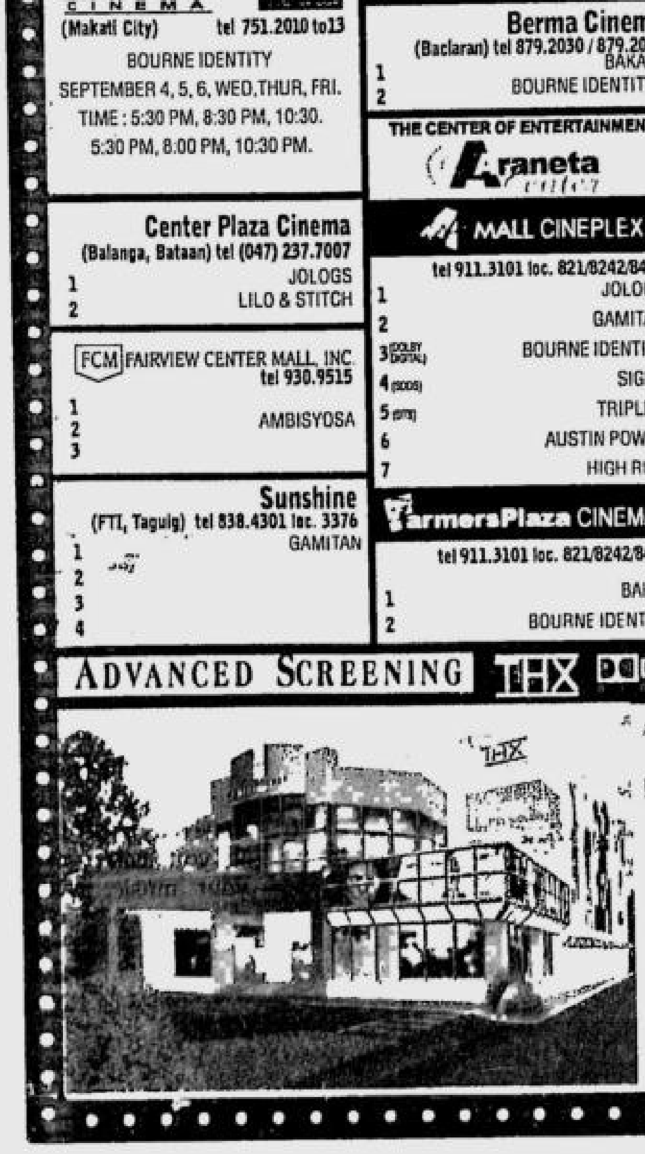
### Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 JOLOGS
2 TRIPLE X
3 BIGLANG LIKO

### Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 GAMITAN
2 DERAILED
3 TRIPLE X
4 JOLOGS

### Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY) BOURNE IDENTITY
2 MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS
3 (DTS) SIGNS
4 AUSTIN POWER-3

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice .

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS



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REIGN OF FIRE

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SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
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### SM CITY BACOOR
4173888
1 GAMITAN
2 DERAILED
3 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4 TRIPLE X
5 SIGNS
6 JOLOGS
7 BAKAT
8 HIGH RISK

### SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416
1 JOLOGS
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4 BAKAT
5 HIGH RISK
6 GAMITAN
7 TRIPLE X
8 DERAILED
9 SIGNS
10 AUSTIN POWERS

### SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 BAKAT
2 HIGH RISK
3 TRIPLE X
4 SIGNS
5 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
6 JOLOGS
7 AUSTIN POWERS
8 GAMITAN
9 DERAILED
10 HUMAN EATER
11 UNFAITHFUL
12 JOLOGS

### SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 AUSTIN POWERS
2 SIGNS
3 THE ROOKIE
4 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
5 TRIPLE X
6 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
7 HIGH RISK
8 DERAILED
9 JOLOGS
10 GAMITAN
11 JOLOGS
12 BAKAT

### SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2 SIGNS
3 UNFAITHFUL
4 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
5 HIGH RISK
6 THE ROOKIE
7 GAMITAN
8 AUSTIN POWERS
9 JOLOGS
10 DERAILED
11 BAKAT
12 TRIPLE X

### SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452
1 HIGH RISK
2 AUSTIN POWERS
3 BAKAT
4 JOLOGS
5 GAMITAN
6 SIGNS
7 TRIPLE X
8 THE BOURNE IDENTITY

### SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 THE ROOKIE
2 AUSTIN POWERS
3 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4 SIGNS
5 DERAILED
6 GAMITAN
7 JOLOGS
8 TRIPLE X
9 HIGH RISK
10 BAKAT

### SM CITY CEBU
2313976
1 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2 TRIPLE X
3 KILLING ME SOFTLY
4 SWEETEST THING
5 SEX & ZEN
6 GAMITAN
7 JOLOGS
8 THE BOURNE IDENTITY

### SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 TRIPLE X
2 CLOSED
3 SWEETEST THING
4 UNFAITHFUL
5 JOLOGS
6 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
7 CLOSED
8 ORANGE COUNTY

### SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2 TRIPLE X
3 BAKAT
4 GAMITAN
5 SIGNS
6 JOLOGS

### SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 AUSTIN POWERS
2 JOLOGS
3 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
4 SIGNS

### SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2 BAKAT
3 JOLOGS
4 HIGH RISK

### SM CITY DAVAO
2976998
1 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
2 JOLOGS
3 TRIPLE X
4 UNFAITHFUL
5 SWEETEST THING
6 INSOMNIA

### SM BICUTAN
1
2
3
4
*SOON TO OPEN!*
*4 NEW*
*STATE-OF-THE-ART*
*VISION & SOUND*

### SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1
2
3
4
*SOON TO OPEN!*
*4 NEW*
*STATE-OF-THE-ART*
*VISION & SOUND*

### THE PODIUM CINEMA
16 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City
633-8076

1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

2 THE BOURNE IDENTITY
11:00 FS/11:20 MF/1:40/4:00/6:20/8:40/
10:40 LFS/11:00 LMF/1:00 END

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4 AUSTIN POWERS
5 BOURNE IDENTITY
6 SIGNS
7 BAKAT
8 JOLOGS
9 TRIPLE X
10 UNFAITHFUL

### Ermita
536 -7809- 12
1 BOURNE IDENTITY
2 BAKAT
3 HIGH RISK
4 SIGNS
5 THE ROOKIE
6 JOLOGS
7 AUSTIN POWERS

### Metro East -
Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280
1 GAMITAN
2 BOURNE IDENTITY
3 AUSTIN POWERS
4 TRIPLE X
5 HIGH RISK
6 JOLOGS
7 SIGNS
8 BAKAT

### Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30
1 BOURNE IDENTITY
2 TRIPLE X
3 JOLOGS
4 UNFAITHFUL
5 SIGNS
6 AUSTIN POWERS
7 BAKAT
8 HIGH RISK

### Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 BOURNE IDENTITY
2 JOLOGS
3 SPIRIT
4 TRIPLE X
5 INSOMNIA
6 GAMITAN

### Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459
1 BOURNE IDENTITY
2 JOLOGS
3 SPIRIT
4 THE SWEETEST THING
5 INSOMNIA
6 GAMITAN

### Iloilo
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1 BOURNE IDENTITY
2 UNFAITHFUL
3 THE SWEETEST THING
4 JOLOGS
5 ORANGE COUNTY
6 BIGLANG LIKO

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1 SORORITY BOYS
2 SIGNS
3 JOLOGS
4 BAKAT
5 BOURNE IDENTITY
6 BOURNE IDENTITY

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# Thrill is going, going–gone?

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

ONE month ago, we used to watch "The Weakest Link" as often as we could. These days, we still view the quiz show now and then to record some amusing wrong answers, but the thrill is generally going, going—gone?

The replacement of quizmaster **Edu Manzano** by **Allan K** is only part of the problem. Yes, Allan is clearly out of his depth and the program has become flaccid and unfocused under his charge, but there's more to the show's flagging fortunes than that.

Another downer is the production's now more "democratic" bent, with rappers and sexy dancers suddenly deemed knowledgeable enough to answer the occasionally tough questions asked on the show.

As a result, many questions aren't answered, or answered wrongly, so watching the program is no longer exciting, it's become irritating.

Consequently, a number of heretofore loyal viewers have sadly told us that they no longer watch the show, and that's really a pity.

As for "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?," it's still doing ok, but the people behind it should realize that the show has been on the tube for such a long time that it's become predictable.

To make it exciting once more, its earlier portions should be speeded up. Before the P100,000 mark, the show should fairly zing along. Only when the cash prizes have become substantial should "drama" and "excitement" come into play.

On "Game Ka Na Ba?," predictability has also set in, but the biggest problem appears to be the increasing difficulty of the questions asked. Thus, fewer contestants seem to be able to win the bigger prizes. In the past, the show became popular for asking relatively easy questions, thus enabling contestants to make more money. It's time to go back to that more generous stance.

In general, producers should take cognizance of the fact that the quiz show fad is no longer new, and could even be on the wane. Thus, they have to think of ways to reenergize it, or move on to something else.

### Boob-tube booboos

HOST: *Ano ang presyo ng asukal sa palengke ngayon?*

Field Reporter: *Dito sa* Commonwealth, one pound of sugar *na segunda mano ay* P 26.

(*Segunda mano*? Anybody for second-hand sugar?)

***

Host: Can you tell us more about your new health drink?

Guest: Gladly! I'm happy to say that the unique quality and scientific concentration of our new product comes up to a healthy lifestyle for all!

(We're sorry we asked.)

***

Host: You have a very varied bffet offering in your restaurant. How many cuisines are represented here?

Owner: Many! One thing we can assure you, you will eat many countries included in our special buffet!

(Wheee!)

***

Host: How do you know when the prawns in your fishpond are ready for harvest?

Guest: *Ang pugso, pag may* shop shell, better *na ipostpone ang* harbet.

(*Ano daw*? Please repeat your answer—this time with your dentures on!)

***

Host: Did you have an easy time getting to the top?

Guest: No, it was hard. Where I am now *ay resulta ng lahat ng* blood, shed and tears *ko*!

(Blood, shed and tears? *Bago 'yun, a.*)

***

Host: *Ano ang* vibes *mo sa* show biz this week?

Fortune-teller: Feel *ko lang*, I don't know, but feel *ko*, this week *may dalawang artista na masasangkot sa isang kontrobersya*!

(How vague and predictable can you get?)

***

Host: When should we use this new machine for skin disease?

Guest: As soon as you have different rashes in different parts of the country.

(Huh?!)

# GMA 7 airs '9/11' special from 3 places

GMA News and Public Affairs presents the September 11 disaster from the three places where it all began.

The TV special, "Pilipino sa Kuko ng Terorismo," puts into perspective for the Filipino viewers the event that shocked the world last year.

Raffy Tima and Kara David join seasoned broadcast journalist Jessica Soho at 9 tonight.

Jessica reports from Afghanistan, Raffy in New York and Kara in Basilan.

In this world that is continuously threatened by terrorism, the broadcast journalists will unveil several standpoints and discuss the implications and impact on the lives of the Filipino affected by the tragedy.

Don't miss the "9/11" special on "GMA's Best," "Frontpage," "Saksi" and "Jessica Soho Reports" this week.

# The chill-out master

**ANTON Ramos**

From page A32

rated," Ramos says.

The success of "The Chill Out Project" aroused the interest of the owners of Wasabi, a Japanese restaurant in Makati. They wanted Ramos music to play in their halls.

"My residency at Wasabi sort of put a name, a face and a place to chill-out music," Ramos says. "That was really important. People now have a place to go if they want to listen to this kind of music."

Ramos still plays at Wasabi every now and then. Often, he asks other DJs, whom he himself trained, to do the Wasabi gig.

Ramos' second album, "The Lounge Story," was released in October 2001 to follow up the success of "The Chill Out Project." The second album contains 18 tracks from top chill-out acts from the UK (Groove Armada, Kinobe, Way Out West), the US (Elak), Canada (The New Deal), Germany (Aromabar, Hacienda, Mo Horizon), Austria (Dzihan and Kamien), Belgium (Sven Van Hees), Sweden (Club 8), Italy (The Dining Rooms, Be Noir) and Greece (Hyplar).

"Chill Out Project: A Soundtrack to Modern City Life" is the chill master's next offering. For the first time, Ramos came up with an original for the album, "Longing (All I Hear)." The piece, he says, was inspired by a recent breakup with a girl whose picture can be seen on the album cover.

### Encouraging

Ramos says the signs that chill-out music would soon develop in the Philippines are encouraging. Big recording companies like Viva have offered him their entire OPM catalogues for remixing, he says. "We've more or less agreed on the terms. We're just choosing which songs to use."

Rico Blanco of Rivermaya has asked him to collaborate with the band on its next project.

Ramos will soon be the owner, too, of local Tower Records stores. He is excited about the merging of Tower and Music One. Both are now under Music First, with Ramos as president and Vince Parr, the former COO of Tower, as vice president.

### Great brand

"Tower is a great brand and has great locations," says Ramos. "It is also a favorite of mall owners because it attracts customers on its own.

"We're just finalizing things. By the end of the year, there will be five Tower Records shops and one Music One," he adds.

The volume of business that Music First can generate from the merging will allow the company to market its products better and to get bigger discounts from suppliers, he says. This in turn will benefit consumers.

Ramos plans to sell Tower and Music One's weekly top 25 selling albums at half-price and find ways to revive the stores' dipping sales at the same time. He says this is also his way of helping fight piracy in the country.

### Piracy

"The thing with piracy is that the artists don't get what they're due after their hard work," he says. "They are being ripped off. These CDs, whether you like them or not, are all art. So they all should be treated like art."

Ramos admits that being the owner of music stores has greatly helped him as an artist. "I keep joking people that the only reason I get record deals is because I guarantee displays in my stores," he says.

Though he would like to believe that his albums sold fairly well on their own, he admits that having music stores has also helped him in terms of promoting his albums.

### Fairness

"But I'm very fair when it comes to promoting records, even my own," he says. "I treat them like any other album: When their sales start to falter, I take them out of the stands."

Today, four years after this writer first interviewed Ramos, along with then Music One vice president Merwin Tee, Ramos jokingly tells me to simply "reprint what you have written in the school paper."

"After all, nothing has changed," he says. "I still believe in the same ideals I believed back then. If you can't share your music, what's the point of having tons of records? I've always liked the idea of being able to affect people just by playing a good song."

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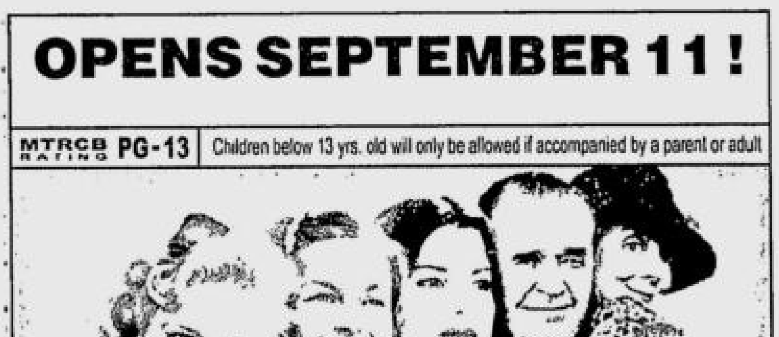

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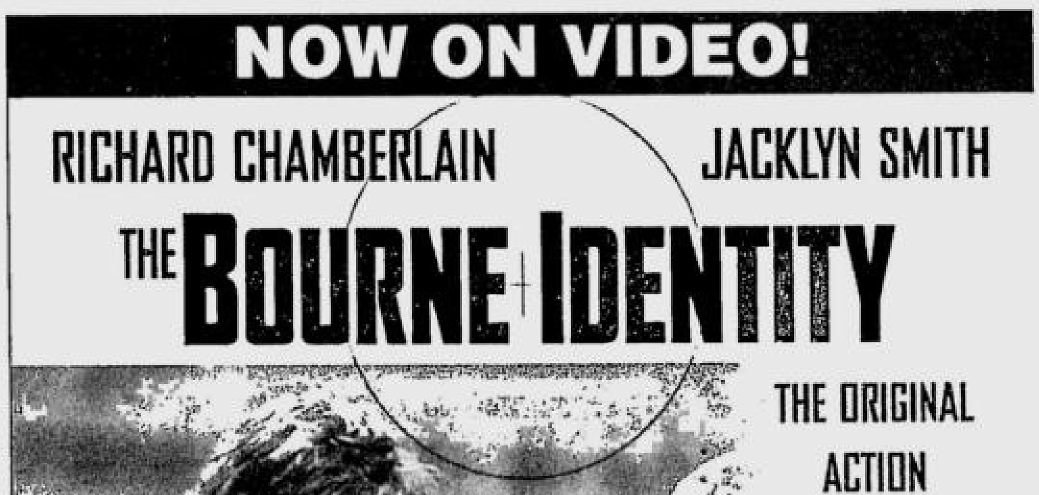

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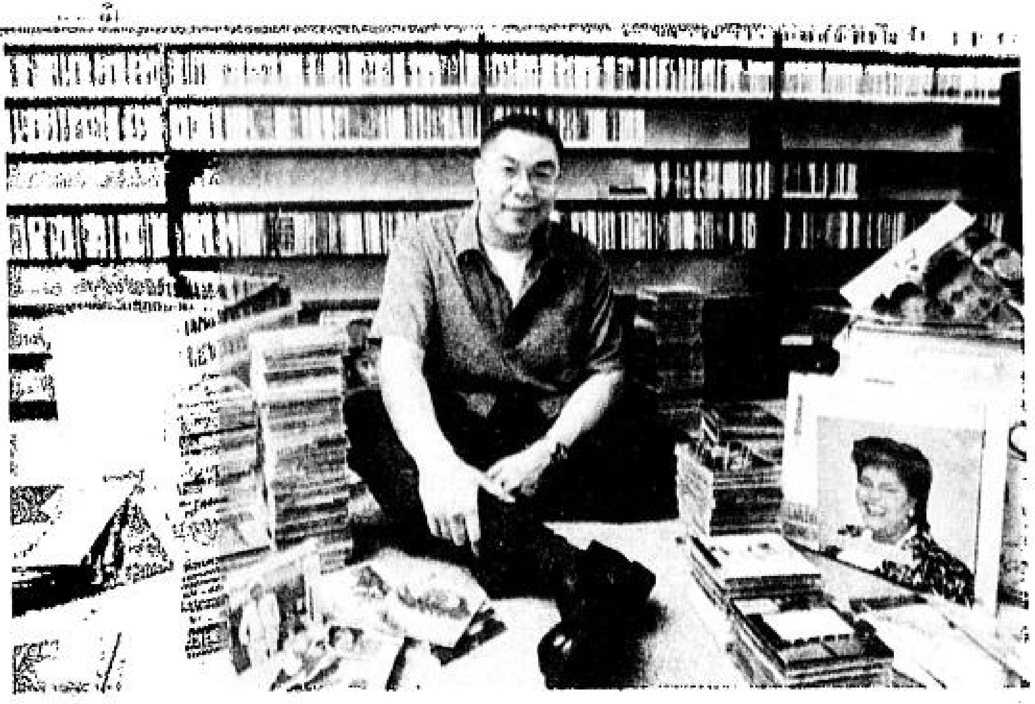

**MUSIC MAN** Ramos and his tons of records, with which he affects people.

## ANTON RAMOS

# The chill-out master

By Marinel R. Cruz

FOR SOMEONE who declares he is no musician, Anton Ramos is an important figure in the music scene. He is, after all, the man behind the Music One stores as well as radio station 104.7 FM. He also produced and hosted radio shows and released several albums.

Soon, he'll also be the head honcho of Tower Records stores.

And he brought chill-out music to the country.

When this writer interviewed Ramos for a school paper about four years ago, he had said Music One was created out of his need to share with people music that they have never heard before. He had said that Music One would change music retail in the country.

His Music One Corp. was the first to install pre-programmed disc players in its stores to assist shoppers in choosing what records to buy.

"In the States, buyers cannot just go to stores and listen to CDs," Ramos says. "This is my problem whenever I shop for records. This is also why I came up with pre-programmed stations for my stores."

### New music

Ramos believes that music stores should create a sense of awe and fun and allow people to walk around and discover new music.

The same need to share good music with people also encouraged Ramos to produce and host in 1997 "The Chill Out Project," a two-hour lounge program every Thursday night on 99.5 RT. The chill-out show lasted for two years.

"'Chill Out Project' was basically a free-flowing, anything-goes program," he recalls. "We played anything that I thought was for chilling out, relaxing, for talking or drinking."

Before he discovered chill-out music, his 99.5 RT program had an acid jazz format. "I couldn't use (chill-out music) in my show because people would say it was not acid jazz," he says.

He says chill-out music is strictly not a genre. People listen to this kind of music to relax or to simply chill out. Its root, he says, is the music played in Ibiza's Café del Mar way back when the father of chill-out music, Jose Padilla, was still its resident disc jockey. The music grew more and more popular and different forms emerged—electronica, trip hop, down beat, down tempo, lounge and chill out.

The rise of chill out as a genre-merging category could be traced to the January 1998 release of the "Moon Safari" album by the French band Air and Groove Armada's "At the River" single. Another group, Ministry of Sound, sold more than 500,000 copies in the UK alone when it released its chill-out compilation.

### Clubbing

"Chill-out music has always been drawn parallel to clubbing," Ramos explains. "There used to be chill-out clubs in New York that opened at two in the morning. People either just went straight to the clubs or, after they had been out partying all night, they went there to unwind."

His "The Chill Out Project" radio show brought the music to the Philippines. He also hosted "The Groove Garden" for Citylite 88.3. from October '98 to mid-'99.

As expected of local music culture's unreceptive attitude toward change, the music didn't get the enthusiastic response Ramos had expected.

Acceptance finally came when he released in 2000 an album also called "The Chill Out Project," from Universal Records. The album sold more than 10,000 copies, more or less equivalent to the sales of Backstreet Boys records at that time. "The album was even pi-

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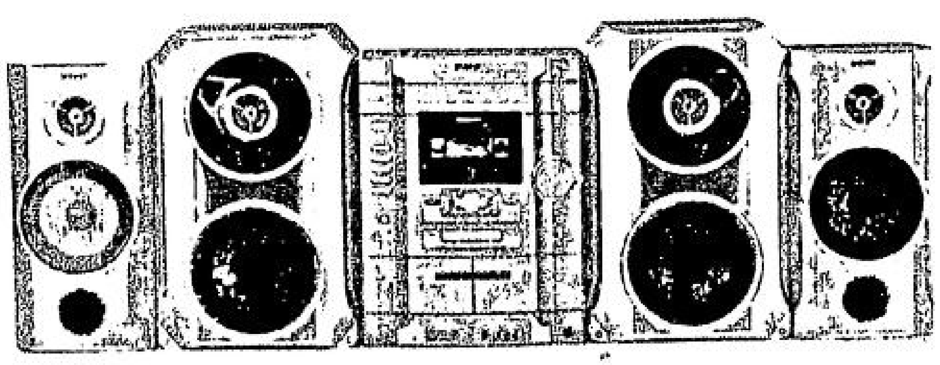

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# BSP sees ₱45-B decline in local banks' bad loans

*Gov't losing P6B from cell phone firms*

Page B24

By Clarissa S. Batino

**IN A BID to bring down the level of the banking system's non-performing loans, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has eased the definition of NPLs to exclude about P45 billion worth of loans that have been practically written off by banks.**

The revised definition of NPLs would help bring down the level of bad loans on paper while the legislation that would provide incentives for the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle remained pending in Congress.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said unresolved issues on the SPAV legislation might prompt Congress, after returning from a recess, to consider passing a law that would first address the sale of the banking sector's real and other properties owned or acquired or Ropoa.

Banks' foreclosed assets account for more than P100 billion of the total banking sector's P500 billion in bad loans.

"If legislators could not resolve their differences, then we would have to make do with a SPAV for Ropoa. It is better than nothing. At least it would be a start but the ideal legislation is one that would address the bad loans and assets of the entire banking system so that banks would start lending again. Once this happens, then the economy can perform better," Buenaventura said.

BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said the policy-making Monetary Board believed that if loans with 100-percent provisioning would be taken out of the NPL folder, the commercial banking system's bad loans ratio would drop by about two percentage points from 18.06 percent in June.

Reyes estimated these types of loans to be worth about P45 billion but were not yet taken out from the banks' NPLs because these serve as standby tax deductions for the lenders.

BSP/ B5

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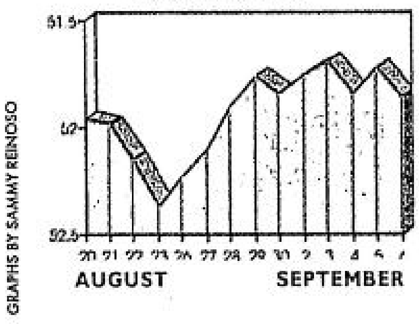

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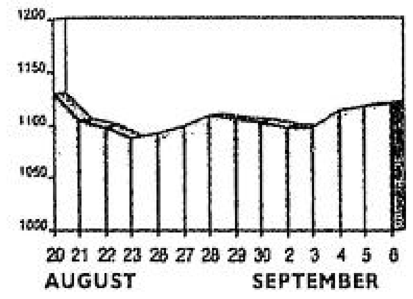


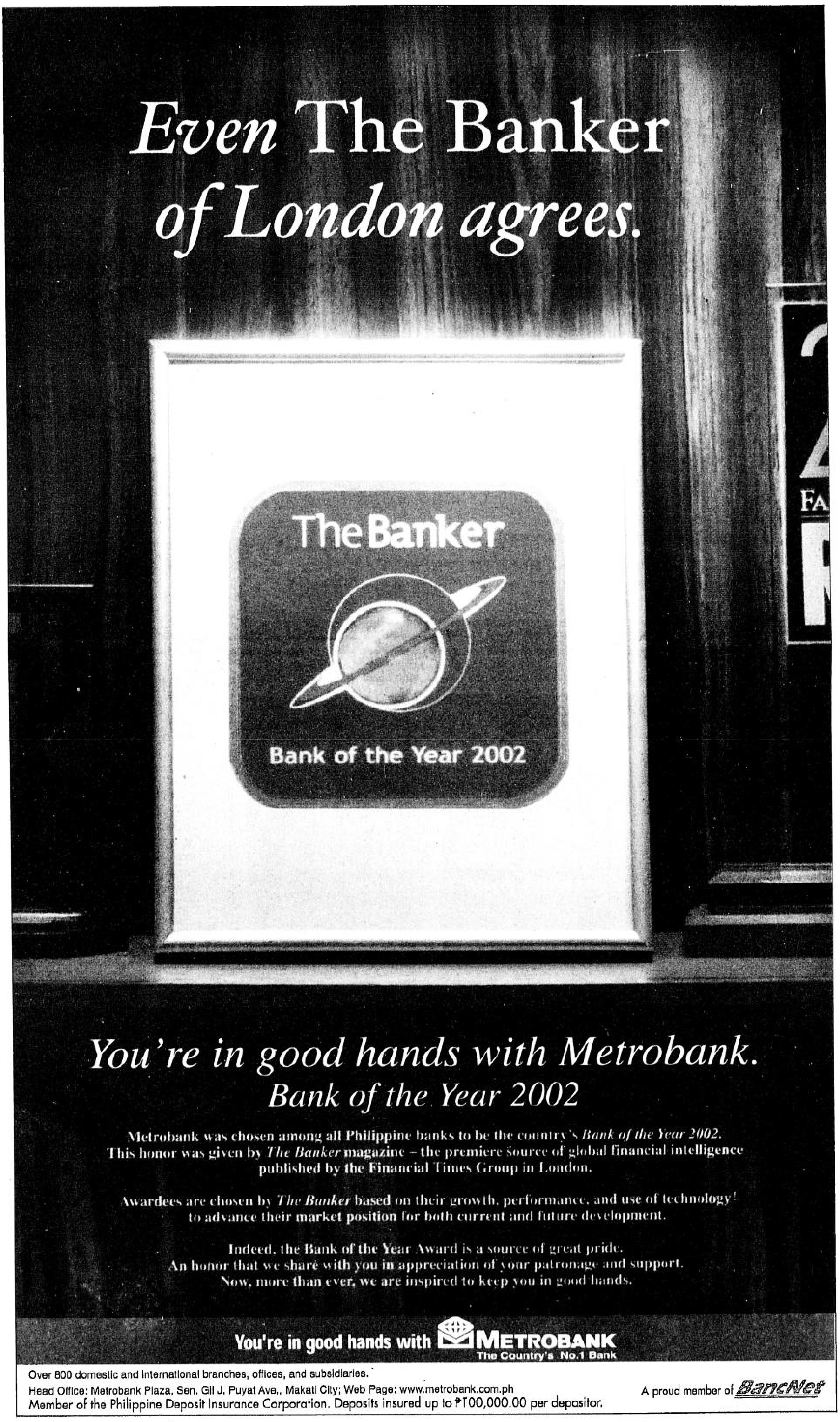
(See stock market report on Page B6)

## Stocks seen to rise

LOCAL stocks are seen to firm up this week due to the slow but steady return of buying interest from institutional investors who are reacting positively to the country's improving macroeconomic fundamentals.

Villamor Vital, president of the Worldwide Investment Management of the Philippines

STOCKS/ B6



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# 11th Minbizcon: The whole truth and nothing but

**MINDANAO ONE**

*Joji Ilagan-Bian*

LAST Friday's (Aug. 30, 2002) published article in the Philippine Daily Inquirer regarding the 11th Mindanao Business Conference in Surigao City ("A Matter of Protocol: Do they know how to prepare halal?" by Franklin Caliguid) deserves more than just a comment or two from this dispensation—in fact it deserves an enlightened perspective if only to tell the truth and nothing but the truth about that historic event.

In the article, Mr. Caliguid portrayed a bleak prospect for the 11th Minbizcon on the basis of 1) logistical deficiency 2) political will and 3) event management. Allow me to answer his seemingly premature conclusions point by point.

This year's Mindanao Business Conference is very significant as it is the first time that it is being held outside a major urban center in Mindanao. We highlighted not only Surigao's innate strengths as an industrial destination and as an eco-tourism destination—we are also underscoring the fact that Surigaonons could rise up to the challenge of global-oriented business if and when given the opportunity to do so.

In one single venue, you could see the Muslims and the Christians working side by side with a common agenda and vision for a better Mindanao. Yes, we are one in Mindanao regardless of color, creed, or religion.

We have with us delegations from in and around the East Asean Growth Area: from Malaysia and Indonesia and also from Australia. The strong participation shown by our local business chambers also shows that we are stronger than ever as the foremost business organization in Mindanao.

We are having this annual event as a means to validate and re-validate our policy advocacy issues aimed at enhancing the growth of business in the island region, as a benchmark with which to compare the relative progress we have done over the 12 months since the previous conference in Cotabato City.

We don't want the momentum we have gained over the years in terms of policy advocacy and development intervention to just fall by the wayside. We don't want business agreements to just be piles of meaningless documents gathering dust on our shelves. We don't just let things happen and pass us by because we have a stake in Mindanao's future, and each of us plays an important role as catalysts for development. We want to help build stronger partnerships for a better Mindanao.

Mr. Caliguid's article seems to be ill informed and speculative to say the least. We believe that he could further refine his writing prowess by attending briefings about the initiatives of the Mindanao Business Council (MBC), the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo), and other government agencies and business organizations regarding the East Asean Growth Area. He also needs to research further on the policy advocacy initiatives that we have done over the years. More than that, it is very improbable that a Mindanawon like him doesn't know that our counterparts from Malaysia and Indonesia share the same sentiments as us: We all want to help improve our less developed regions by increasing opportunities for trade and livelihood development.

However, the 11th Mindanao Business Conference overturned whatever speculations

MINDANAO/ B3

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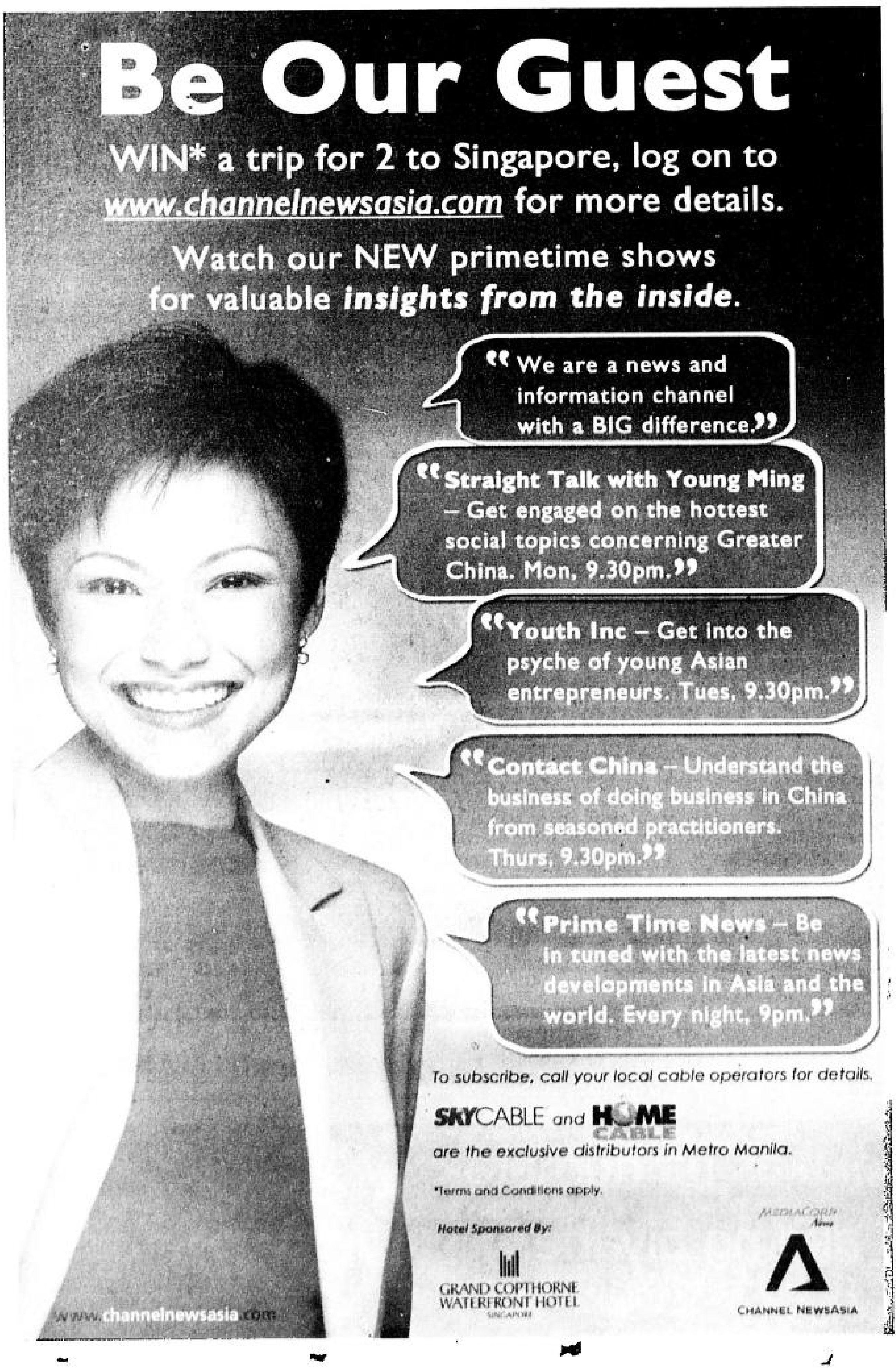

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# RP exports seen growing 10% on bigger Asean, China trade

**By Doris C. Dumlao**

PHILIPPINE export earnings can grow by 10 percent this year due to the strong pick-up of merchandise trade with Asean neighbors and China and the rebound in global demand for electronics, according to Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries president Sergio Ortiz-Luis.

From January to July this year, receipts from merchandise exports have already expanded by 6.9 percent to $19.86 billion from a year ago, with the increment for the month of July alone hitting 23 percent.

Ortiz-Luis, a former president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, said the strong demand for electronics components indicated that the sector was back from the doldrums.

His forecast was even more optimistic than the government's official target of a 4-percent growth in exports for this year compared with the contraction of 16 percent recorded last year. Economic managers are seen revising the targets upward.

"In November, we said we wouldn't see any movement in the United States until the second half of the year but it turned out that a rebound already happened in the first half," Ortiz-Luis said.

"And knowing that exports peak in the third quarter, I think we will hit a 10-percent export growth this year," he said.

Exports and imports seasonally peak in the third quarter due to higher demand in time for the onset of the Christmas season.

"I think the sad experience of the Asean after the currency crisis of 1997 and of course the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the US last year have forced us to go out of our traditional markets. Recently, the growth of exports to Asean and Europe has been fantastic," Ortiz-Luis said.

"It's good we've focused on diversifying our markets," he said.

The recovery in exports has boosted domestic manufacturing activities in the country, which contributes more than 70 percent of the output of the industry sector, resulting in a dramatic rebound in contribution to economic growth.

As the country has started to reap the benefits of increased trade with Asean, the government has said it would not backtrack from its commitments to the Common Effective Preferential Tariffs (CEPT) scheme of the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta).

Under the CEPT scheme of the region's free trade, tariffs on Asean products will be progressively reduced to zero-5 percent, a move seen to benefit exporters to Asean markets but harm local producers competing with Asean imports in the domestic market.

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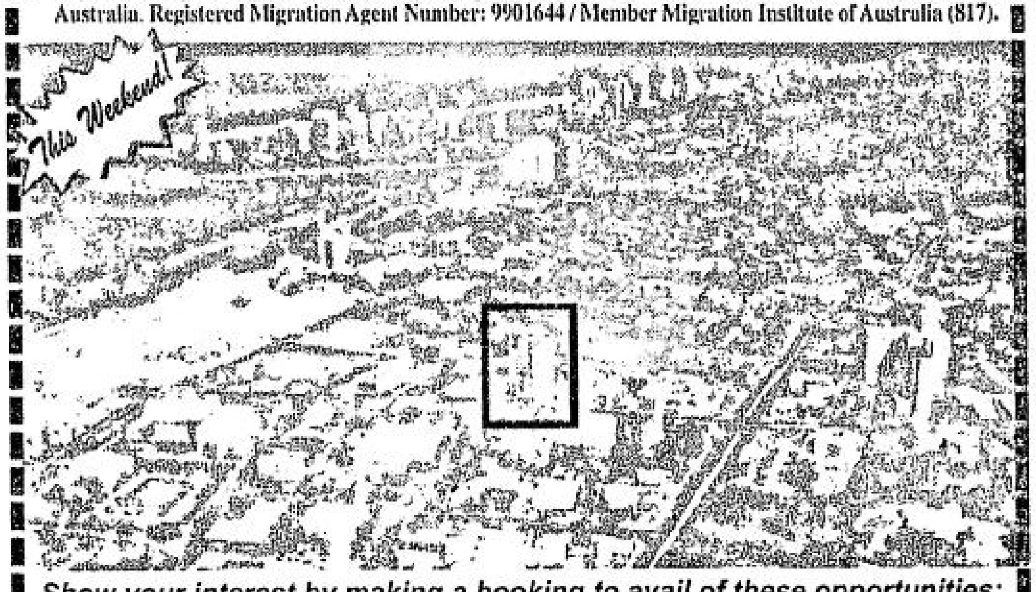

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# RP eyes new tack to defer tariff cuts

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

THE PHILIPPINE government is planning to invoke the Asean 10-X principle to defer the scheduled tariff cuts on key commodities such as petrochemicals without compensating other member-countries for reneging on its commitments.

The Asean 10-X principle, which was first introduced by former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, basically allows the regional organization to reach a consensus or move forward in the implementation or project level even if one or two member countries object to the agreement or refuse to participate.

Although the Asean 10-X principle has been applied in a number of pan-regional agreements such as the Asean Industrial Cooperation (Aico) and the Asean Framework Agreement on Enhancing Cooperation, Asean has yet to decide whether the concept could be applied in the Asean Free Trade Area-Common Effective Preferential Tariff (Afta-CEPT). The issue is up for deliberation during the Afta Council meeting this month.

Malacañang is reportedly wavering on the implementation of the Asean-CEPT tariff cuts on several distressed industries following mounting protests by businessmen and workers in the petrochemical, cement, automotive, ceramic tiles, and shoe industries.

Unlike Malaysia, which has decided to invoke the Asean protocol to delay the liberalization of its automotive sector, the Philippines was wary of using the Asean protocol to delay the tariff cuts because it would entail sacrificing other industries to compensate Asean member-countries for losses arising from a delay. The Philippines has pushed to delay the tariff cuts on sugar in the Afta-CEPT but this entailed giving Thailand first preference in the country's imports of sugar and rice.

A government source said the emergence of a possible alternative to the Asean protocol has given Malacañang a window of opportunity to continue protecting its markets without having to make amends to co-members.

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II revealed that the President has a standing order for the economic team to review once more the petition of affected industries whose duties are expected to drop to no more 5 percent next year under the Afta-CEPT.

Ford
Special Supplement
Business Monday, C2-C5

# 11th Minbizcon. . .

From page B2

floated by the article.

The Surigao Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by engineer Leonel Santos and the Surigao del Norte provincial government led by Gov. Robert Lyndon Barbers have pulled off a miracle. And it is a miracle in no small measure as they did it right the very first time. The conference venue was simply one of the best we ever had. The program was well prepared and the issues discussed were all very relevant to the growth of business in Mindanao. The hospitality was tremendous and the food was certainly *halal*-certified.

At the end of that very successful conference we presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo 11 policy resolutions that carried urgent recommendations regarding reduction of sea transport and logistics cost, human resource development, infrastructure, increased budgetary allocation for Mindanao, agricultural competitiveness, and maximizing the competitiveness of our nickel resource base in Surigao.

President Macapagal herself acknowledged that the conference was the most attended (750 local and foreign delegates) and had the most number of "high powered" speakers. One only has to get inside the Surigao del Norte Convention Center and feel the spirit that continuously propels Mindanawons to greater heights. As I have mentioned in my previous speeches during other Mindanao-wide events, the island region still holds the HOPE, the PEACE, and the PROMISE.

Any reporter or writer for that matter is most welcome to feel and be satisfied as we do. Then he or she would be more than able to communicate—he or she would almost as surely be a Mindanao advocate. *(Ilagan-Bian is the chair of the Mindanao Business Council.)*

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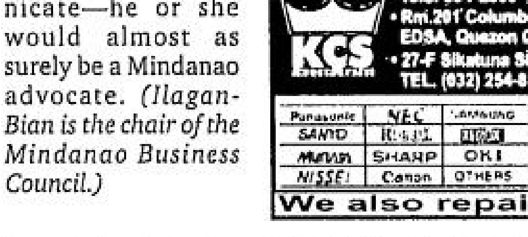

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# Medicare program for indigents

## QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

*Honesto C. General*

THE EXPENSES one incurs at a hospital can be financially crushing. The only way to make hospital care affordable for everyone is through insurance where the cost of hospital care is shared by even those who do not get sick.

Thus, we have the National Health Insurance Act of 1995 (RA 7875). This law was enacted "to provide all citizens with the mechanism to gain financial access to health services . . . and give the highest priority to achieving coverage for the entire population with at least a basic minimum package of health insurance benefit."

The health insurance program now in force reimburses the covered member of his expenses actually incurred only as a result of being confined in an accredited hospital for a disease not banned by law. There are no out-patient benefits. The total benefits are still modest, but when one is confined in a hospital, he is happy to get any help that is available. *Mabuti na sa wala*.

There are two programs. Program I covers all members of the SSS and GSIS including their legal dependents. Program II covers everyone else, mainly the poor, defined as a family with an annual income of no more than P18,000.

Program I is being implemented fully as it is totally funded by compulsory and regular deductions from the salaries of SSS and GSIS members.

To achieve the dream of universal health insurance coverage for the Filipino people, Program II has to be implemented. But, seven years after RA 7875, the program has yet to start.

The law requires that the contributions for indigent members shall be subsidized partially by the local government unit where the member lives. The Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (Philhealth), mandated by law to run the programs, is supposed to provide the counterpart funds equal to the LGU's subsidy for indigents.

In the case of fourth, fifth, and sixth class LGUs, the national government is supposed to provide up to 90 percent of the subsidy for indigents for not more than five years. The share of the LGU shall be progressively increased until such time that its share becomes equal to that of the national government.

But the money for the indigents has not been appropriated, not by the LGUs (except for a few), not by Philhealth, least of all by the national government. To the LGUs and the national government, public health seem to have a low priority in budget making. Philhealth simply has little money for the program.

It is clear that the government just cannot start Program II on its own. The only other source of funding is the private sector.

Now comes Glaxo SmithKline, the giant international pharmaceutical firm. GSK is pitching in with its unique three-year subsidy plan. Philhealth has drawn up a modest health insurance package that costs P1,188 in premiums per family per year. On the first year, GSK and Philhealth will each put up P5.94 million in premiums, or a total of P11.88 million, for 10,000 indigent families. On the second year, GSK will put up P2.94 million, the LGU P2.94 million and Philhealth P5.94 million. On the third year, GSK's subsidy stops and the annual premium is shared equally by Philhealth and the LGU.

GSK, Philhealth will choose the LGUs that will be the partners in this start-up project for 10,000 families. Then, each participating LGU will decide which family will be entitled to join the program. Each covered family will carry a "Pinoy Health Pass," which will be recognized and accepted by Philhealth accredited hospitals.

It looks to me that there are still a lot of kinks that have to be ironed out. But, Glaxo SmithKline should be roundly congratulated for blazing the trail toward eventual universal health insurance coverage for the Filipino people.

Ten thousand families are a modest start, but it is a commendable start just the same. It is estimated that to attain this universal health insurance coverage, some 650 firms have to follow GSK's lead. Let us hope these other firms will start lining up at Philhealth with their subsidy checks soon.

# BSP retains higher inflation target for 2003

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

THE POLICY-MAKING Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is objecting to the lower inflation target for 2003 of 4-5 percent that the economic team and the Cabinet had approved last month.

"For 2003, the BSP is still retaining an inflation target of 4.5 to 5.5 percent that we would use as basis in our inflation targeting," said BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura who also chairs the Monetary Board.

Starting this year, the BSP had adopted a so-called inflation targeting in making monetary policy decisions, particularly those involving the direction of the overnight rates and reserve requirements.

The inflation targeting requires monetary authorities, through their policy directives, to achieve price stability and meet the programmed inflation that the inter-agency Development Budget Coordinating Committee determines.

"The Monetary Board has not agreed with the 4 to 5 percent inflation target for 2003. We will revisit the targets by year-end but the sentiment for now is to retain a 4.5 to 5.5 percent inflation target for 2003, just like this year," Buenaventura said.

The DBCC, made up of the economic managers including a BSP representative, had scaled down the inflation target for 2003 from an original forecast of 5 to 6 percent, similar to this year's original target.

When the DBCC revised the inflation target for 2002 to 4.5 to 5.5 percent last June, the economic managers also brought down the 2003 target to the same level. As the inflation trend became more encouraging in the previous months, the DBCC decided to tighten further the 2003 inflation numbers to a range of 4 to 5 percent.

"I am still worried about the impact of the El Niño and the possible spike in crude oil prices next year," Buenaventura said.

For the rest of 2002, however, the BSP chief said he believed inflation would be kept way below the full-year target even as he entertained possibilities of modest increase in prices resulting from the recent oil price hikes, specially toward the Christmas season when consumer spending peaks.

"I think inflation would stay at current levels. I don't think the slightly higher August inflation signals the start of an uptrend. Even if there would be modest increases in the coming months, the full-year average would still be well below our target," Buenaventura added.

Given the prospects of a stable inflation until the early part of 2003, Buenaventura said monetary authorities do not see any need to raise overnight rates at the moment.

"Inflation had remained well below target and our interest rates differential with the US, for instance, had remained comfortable, whether in real or nominal terms," he pointed out.

He also stressed that the volatile movement of the peso in August was not related to the decision of the BSP to keep overnight rates stable since March 15 at 7 percent for borrowing and 9.25 percent for lending.

During periods of weakness in the local currency, monetary authorities usually have the option to tighten the supply of money in the system by raising overnight rates or the bank reserve requirement or both. The BSP used this strategy several times during the Estrada administration.

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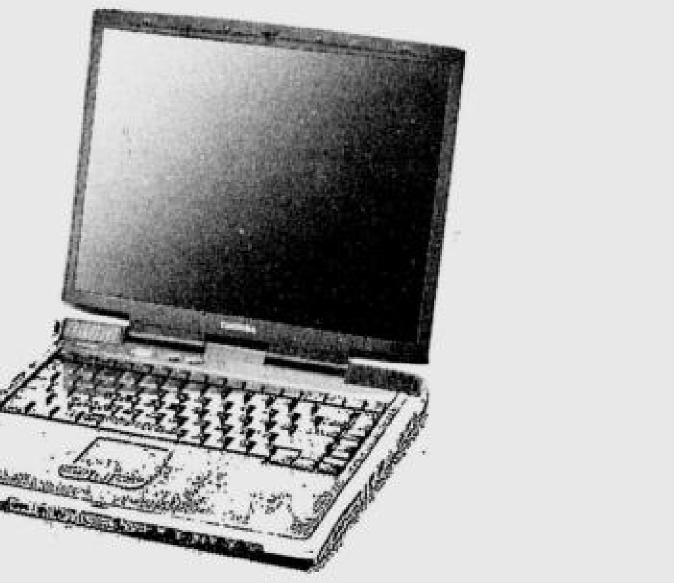

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# Local firms seek higher tax on new car imports

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

LOCAL automotive assemblers and parts manufacturers are pushing to increase duties on completely built-up units imported from non-Asean countries from 30 percent to 50 percent.

A government source said a higher tariff shield should give the local automotive industry more breathing room to prepare for increased competition from auto makers in the United States, Europe, Latin America, China, Japan and Korea.

The most favored nation tariff on CBUs are set to go down from 30 percent to 5 percent in 2004 or 12 months after the duty on Asean CBUs are pulled down to 5 percent under the Asean Free Trade Area-Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) rate.

The source said the automotive industry could not possibly cope with increased competition from non-Asean countries with only a year after vehicles assembled in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia are allowed to enter the country at nominal rates.

A hike in MFN tariffs should likewise offset the debilitating effect of the removal of trade-related investment measures (Trims) in the vehicle industry next year.

Malacañang issued early this year Memorandum Order No. 51, which mandated the phaseout of local content and foreign exchange earning requirements starting July this year until its abolition in July 2003 in compliance with the country's commitment to the United States to drop Trims from its investment promotion tools.

## BSP . . .

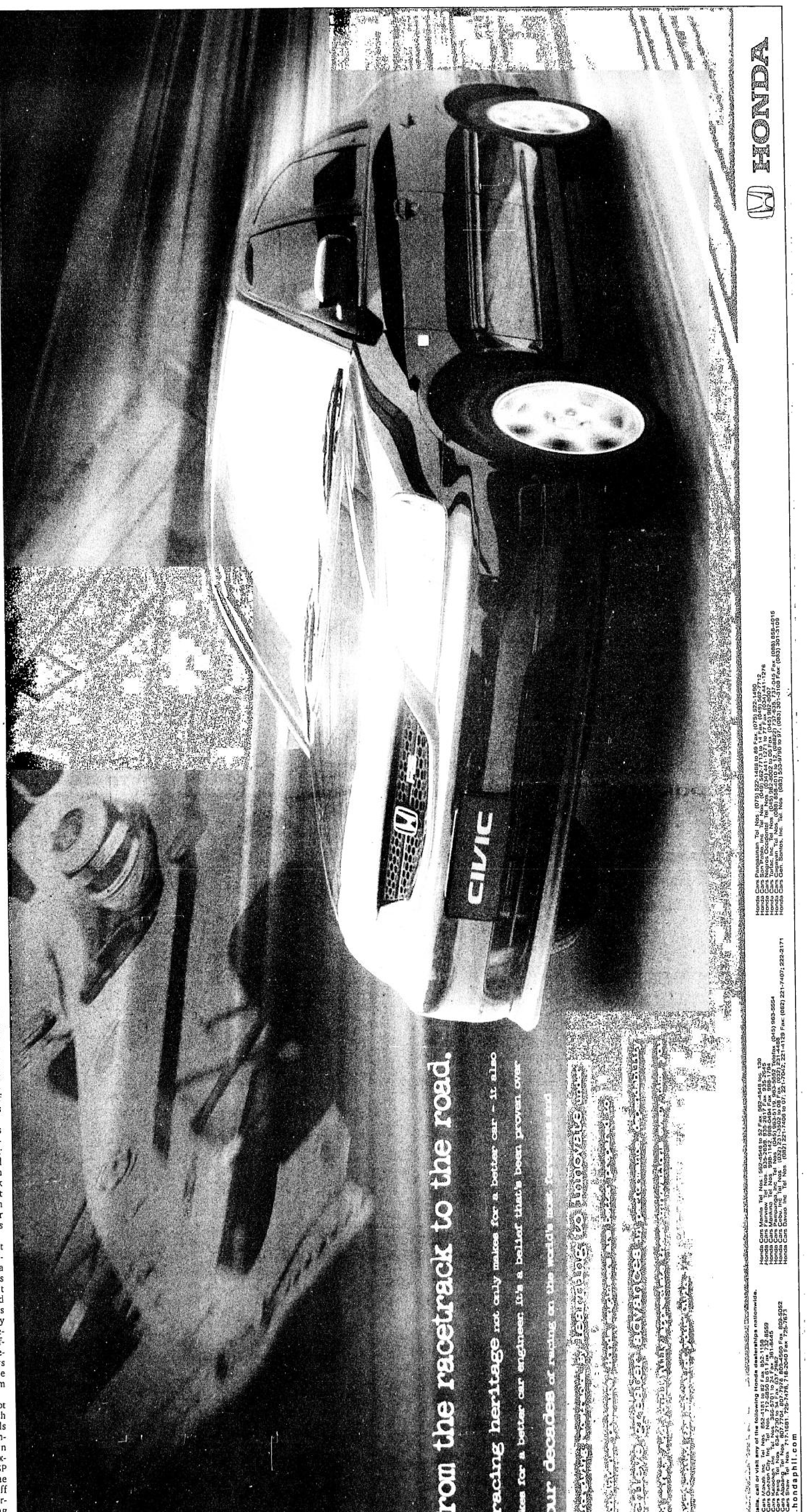
From page B1

For a bank to apply the revised computation on its books, it must have complied with all the general and provisioning requirements and must have reflected accurately all types of valuation in its books.

A provisioning is required by regulators to be set aside for items such as bad loans in anticipation of losses that a bank may incur as a result of having been caught with non- or sub-performing loans and assets.

Reyes said that banks have no incentive to declare a write-off on loans where 100-percent provisioning had been provided unless they could already use these as tax deductions when profits are strong. Write-off of loans allows banks to deduct the full amount from gross profits.

But banks have not been earning much lately as high levels of bad loans continued to weigh down on profits. Reyes explained that the BSP would not force the lenders to write off loans with 100-percent provisioning but only to report these to the BSP and if they choose to, also reflect these in their books.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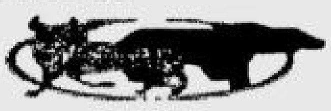

*Ron Nathan*

SOME of my readers, who have been following my articles for the past three years, will know that Alan Greenspan and I have a mutual admiration society. I think he is the most intelligent man on the planet and I watch all his TV appearances before the Senate and Congress. In turn, he never reads any of my articles except for the limericks. We are of a similar age, he being slightly older and far less handsome. In his younger days, he was an accomplished saxophone player but at 76, his sax life is over.

What is less well known, is that he calls me once a month for advice on US interest rates, and so far, we have done a good job. Normally, he is very modest, almost humble, but one day he annoyed me by saying that he knew every important person intimately, and that he was the most recognizable person on the planet.

"Is that so?" said I. "Then call up Ariel Sharon." "Certainly," he said, and without a moment's hesitation, he was on the phone to the Israeli prime minister. They spoke in Hebrew so I did not understand all that was said, but I heard suicide bombers, innocent people, and must find a peaceful solution.

I was impressed, but not convinced, so I challenged him to call the Queen of England, who is very unapproachable. Without a second's hesitation, he phoned her. "Oh, your Majesty, I am sorry to wake you up at 3 a.m. but I forgot the time difference. My condolence for the deaths of your mother and sister, but they lived long lives. How is dirty Harry, still taking drugs? Yes, grandchildren can be difficult at times. What you need is a fillip. Oh, you have one. Your husband, Prince Philip. I quite forgot. Well good night and thank you for the knighthood."

By this time, I was flabbergasted. In a desperate last-ditch attempt to save face, I said, "Why don't you call up his Holiness, the Pope?" "No problem," he replied, and in a moment he was talking to the Holy Father. "I am sad to hear about your arthritis and Parkinson's. Why don't you take it easy for a while?" Then to my astonishment, I heard him accept an invitation. "What was that all about?" said I, trying to conceal my curiosity. "John Paul has asked me to stand by his side when he gives Mass next Sunday at St. Peter's Square."

I did not believe a word of it so I booked a plane ticket to Rome and on Sunday morning, I was amazed to see Alan Greenspan standing next to the Pope on the verandah, waving to the crowd. I turned to a couple of Italians and asked if they knew the men on the balcony.

"I am not sure about the one on the left," they said, "but the one on the right is Alan Greenspan."

No space for limericks this week, but I will make it up to you next week.

My article on short term versus long term, attracted so much attention that I was inundated with e-mails, scores every day, and I went without lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday in a valiant attempt to answer them all. So, in order to avoid a repetition, I would like to clarify who would benefit from being a subscriber and who would not.

The newsletter is NOT SUITABLE for people who live overseas, since they cannot use the short-term signals quickly, and they cannot follow the market because of the time difference. It is not suitable for those who have a portfolio of less than P500,000. Money should always be set aside for retirement, education plans and unexpected hospitalization. Only risk money should be invested in the stock market.

The newsletter IS SUITABLE for traders, who like to take small, quick profits, particularly if they will follow the support and resistance levels, which are published twice weekly and updated daily. It is also useful for people with investment portfolios of P500,000 upwards, who require guidance for their investments. It is often used by people, who are not particularly active investors, but like to be well informed, not only on the Philippine market but also on the United States, the peso, interest rates, oil prices, economic data, in fact, everything that affects us. I know for a fact that several small brokers subscribe, particularly those without research departments or technical analysts.

According to Confucius, or was it Socrates, there are three things that man cannot hope to understand? The first is the mind of God, which is unknowable. The second is the fickleness of women. And the third is the behavior of the Phisix. After Wall Street crashed, taking the DOW down by 355 points; after all European bourses had fallen 4 percent to 5 percent across the board; after the Nikkei had declined 75 percent from its high and plunged to a 19-year low; the Phisix rose 16 points!

It happened because exports to China had more than doubled, and exports to Malaysia (excluding illegal immigrants) had risen 75 percent. I do not see how one good piece of news can offset the growing budget deficit, the weak peso, ministerial resignations, and massive borrowing, up 17.4 percent on last year. As 2004 is election year, you can be sure there will be a lot more debt to come, and we are paying 458 basis points more for our 5-year government bonds, over the comparable US 5-year treasury bond. Even the inflation rate jumped unexpectedly from 2.6 percent to 2.9 percent because of flooding disrupting food supplies, but it is still well below the government's inflation target. We still have El Niño to come, a possible attack on the United States on Sept. 11, and perhaps war with Iraq, though I doubt it will happen. Iraq my brains trying to think of a motive.

The first commandment says, "Do not trade against the trend," and my point and figure charts show a triple bottom around 1,090, with many leaders showing rising bottoms, and even occasionally breaking resistance levels. All this suggests that the market is oversold, but we cannot be certain that it has bottomed because the net turnover (excluding cross sales) remains very low. Wall Street is sure to be nervous ahead of 9/11. If nothing happens, we will almost certainly see a technical rally out of sheer relief.

Since we are still in a trendless market, as shown by a 50-day moving average, I continue to advise buying leaders on bad days and taking small profits. Do not buy the stocks that the foreign brokers are dumping. They took 9 of the top 11 places on Thursday, and still dominate the market.

As always, you can reach me, *mrbearbull@hotmail.com* but don't ask me for opinions on your stocks gone sour. Ask your broker as I wish to resume having lunch next week. I don't know what the problem is with Piatco. I think their potato chips are very good.

# Stocks seen to rise

From page B1

(Winvest), said: "Since institutions are slowly coming back, there will be a slow upward movement but this will be part of a sustained rise. The currently thin value and volume should not discourage us."

Winvest manages a P1-billion mutual fund for state pension fund Government Service Insurance System.

"A sustained rise is beginning to show and it's better than a sudden upturn which will simply be subject to corrections. Possibly, the market will rise by 4 to 5 points a day such that by the end of this week, it shall have risen by 20 points to 1,120 to 1,140," Vital said.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange Composite Index inched up by 1.6 percent last week to close at 1,121.31 on Friday as bargain-hunters picked up oversold issues.

Among the stocks which were seen to lead the market's recovery, Vital said, was telecommunications giant PLDT as he noted its fundamentals have not changed despite the uncertainties on future ownership. He said food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. was likewise finding a lot of buying support.

"The worry now is the Middle East conflict. A war between the US and Iraq could create an uptick in crude oil prices but this will allow stocks like Petron Corp. to move up," he said.

Other issues that could become "haven in times of crisis" in case of an extended war will be Jollibee and RFM Corp., he said.

"Globe Telecoms should also move up as well as the banks as they can positively benefit from the volatility in foreign exchange and interest rates from the Mid-East uncertainties," Vital said.

Banco de Oro Universal Bank chief strategist Jonathan Ravelas said buying interest was supported by the surprisingly positive Philippine export data for July which was released Wednesday last week.

"Chart-wise, Friday's close at 1,121.31 still implies a near-term support did emerge at the 1,085 level. So, a clear break above the 1,150.00 level in the week ahead will shift the near-term view to a more bullish one," Ravelas said.

However, he noted that failure to break above this resistance level could result in further losses toward the 1,050-1,075 range.

Rolly Pineda, a trader with First Orient Securities, said the index could stay afloat the 1,100 level this week but noted that investors were jittery with the nearing first anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

"But it seems that the market is starting to bottom out. I think the downside risks are limited," Pineda said.

BPI Securities said the Phisix would be subjected to a couple of resistance levels along the way to 1,250 to confirm its strength.

"If it breaks above 1,140, this would boost confidence in the market," it said.

It said some technical indicators were now hinting of a trend reversal.

# PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, September 6, 2002)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 18 | 18.25 | 18 | 18.25 | 42,700 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 44.5 | 45 | 44 | 45 | 1,861,800 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 14.25 | 10,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 28.5 | 28.5 | 28 | 28 | 34,000 |
| First E-Bank Corp. | 1.12 | 1.12 | 1.12 | 1.12 | 60,000 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 34 | 34 | 33 | 33.5 | 276,800 |
| Philippine National Bank | 32.5 | 32.5 | 32.5 | 32.5 | 500 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 18.5 | 18.5 | 18.5 | 18.5 | 6,000 |
| **FINANCIAL SERVICE** | | | | | |
| First Abacus Financial | 0.59 | 0.59 | 0.59 | 0.59 | 150,000 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1140 | 1140 | 1140 | 1140 | 70 |
| Sun Life Financial Serv. | 895 | 895 | 890 | 895 | 2,700 |
| **COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **COMMUNICATION** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 24.5 | 24.5 | 24.5 | 24.5 | 13,700 |
| Digital Telecom Phils. Inc. | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.52 | 710,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 495 | 495 | 495 | 495 | 1,360 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.033 | 0.033 | 0.031 | 0.031 | 6,100,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.027 | 0.027 | 0.026 | 0.026 | 1,500,000 |
| Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co. | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 10,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 287.5 | 292.5 | 287.5 | 292.5 | 99,460 |
| Philweb.Com Inc. | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.011 | 0.012 | 51,600,000 |
| **POWER & ENERGY** | | | | | |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 19 | 19.25 | 19 | 19.25 | 13,700 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 32 | 32.5 | 31.5 | 32.5 | 341,500 |
| Petron Corp. | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1.64 | 1,350,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 0.88 | 0.88 | 0.88 | 0.88 | 210,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 2.42 | 2.42 | 2.42 | 2.42 | 11,000 |
| William, Gothong & Aboitiz | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 142,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS** | | | | | |
| Republic Glass Hldg. Corp. | 1.52 | 1.54 | 1.52 | 1.54 | 67,000 |
| Union Cement Corp. | 0.67 | 0.67 | 0.67 | 0.67 | 200,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 143,100 |
| La Tondeña Distillers Inc. | 31 | 31 | 31 | 31 | 800 |
| RFM Corp. | 0.78 | 0.78 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 150,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 49 | 49 | 49 | 49 | 34,600 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 52 | 52 | 51.5 | 52 | 922,700 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 0.32 | 100,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg. A | 0.32 | 0.33 | 0.32 | 0.33 | 150,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 162,000 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 2.34 | 2.36 | 2.34 | 2.36 | 831,000 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 340,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | 0.0055 | 11,000,000 |
| ATN Holdings Inc. | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 5,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 0.245 | 0.245 | 0.23 | 0.24 | 1,690,000 |
| A Brown Company Inc. | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 50,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.16 | 0.18 | 0.16 | 0.18 | 360,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 0.165 | 0.165 | 0.165 | 0.165 | 520,000 |
| Fil-Estate Corp. | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 30,000 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 476,400 |
| Forum Pacific Inc. | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 100,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 1.34 | 1.34 | 1.34 | 1.34 | 7,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 0.59 | 0.59 | 0.58 | 0.59 | 2,450,000 |
| Multitech Inv. Corp. | 0.3 | 0.39 | 0.3 | 0.39 | 210,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.26 | 650,000 |
| Music Corp. | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 10,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 0.73 | 0.73 | 0.73 | 0.73 | 170,000 |
| Tanduay Holdings Inc. | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 290,000 |
| **MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING** | | | | | |
| Metro Alliance Holdings | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 80,000 |
| Mabuhay Vinyl Corp. | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.52 | 20,000 |
| Piçop Resources Inc. | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 300,000 |
| **HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE** | | | | | |
| Belle Corp. | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 10,000 |
| Fairmont Holdings Inc. | 0.48 | 0.48 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 30,000 |
| **BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr) | 24.75 | 24.75 | 24.75 | 24.75 | 419,600 |
| PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 1,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 800 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 900 |
| **OTHERS** | | | | | |
| Centro Escolar University | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4 | 4 | 33,000 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 5.8 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 1,258,000 |
| C & P Homes Inc. | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 760,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.145 | 0.145 | 0.145 | 0.145 | 1,560,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 2,570,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.16 | 1.18 | 1.14 | 1.18 | 15,247,000 |
| Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 0.26 | 10,000 |
| MRC Allied Ind. Inc. | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 0.17 | 30,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 5.4 | 5.7 | 5.4 | 5.7 | 5,851,000 |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. A | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.12 | 60,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't. | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 10,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.175 | 0.185 | 0.175 | 0.185 | 1,100,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 0.19 | 2,530,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 2,000,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 5,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 290,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 0.35 | 0.36 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 740,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Interport Res. | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 0.003 | 20,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.0026 | 0.0026 | 0.0026 | 0.0026 | 100,000,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.029 | 0.029 | 0.029 | 0.029 | 700,000 |

| | SHARES | VALUE (P) |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 2,445,570 | 97,545,750.00 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 84,119,620 | 119,864,065.00 |
| PRO | 27,286,000 | 58,536,380.00 |
| Mining | 11,730,000 | 1,088,200.00 |
| OIL | 120,700,000 | 340,300.00 |
| GRAND TOTALS: | 246,281,190 | 277,374,695.00 |

| | AVERAGES | |
|---|---|---|
| Banks & Fin Svc | 440.19 | UP 1.75 |
| Comm'l & Ind'l | 1,537.89 | DOWN 0.13 |
| PRO | 522.99 | UP 4.56 |
| Mining | 1,200.42 | UP 46.93 |
| OIL | 1.39 | UNCH 0.00 |
| All Shares Index | 626.92 | DOWN 3.43 |
| Composite | 1,121.31 | UP 2.86 |

NO. OF ADVANCES: 28; NO. OF DECLINES: 19; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 37; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 84; NO. OF TRADES: 1,190

# CURRENCIES

Sept. 6, 2002

| Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Foreign currency in US$ | Foreign currency in Peso |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 1.007760 | 1.000000 | 51.7950 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.008523 | 0.008457 | 0.4380 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.578656 | 1.566500 | 81.1369 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.129202 | 0.128207 | 6.6405 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.685085 | 0.679810 | 35.2108 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.641028 | 0.636092 | 32.9464 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.577017 | 0.572574 | 29.6565 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.545797 | 0.541594 | 28.0519 |
| Bahrain | Dinar | 2.673386 | 2.652801 | 137.4018 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.268729 | 0.266660 | 13.8117 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.575173 | 0.570744 | 29.5617 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000114 | 0.000113 | 0.0059 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.023909 | 0.023725 | 1.2288 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.274392 | 0.272279 | 14.1027 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000854 | 0.000847 | 0.0439 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 0.992300 | 51.3962 |
| Argentina | Real | 0.279933 | 0.277778 | 14.3875 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.320229 | 0.317763 | 16.4585 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134700 | 0.133663 | 6.9231 |
| India | Rupee | 0.020821 | 0.020661 | 1.0701 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.265235 | 0.263193 | 13.6321 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.100726 | 0.099950 | 5.1769 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.469709 | 0.466092 | 24.1412 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.135504 | 0.134461 | 6.9644 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.017023 | 0.016892 | 0.8749 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.095432 | 0.094697 | 4.9048 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.108097 | 0.107265 | 5.5558 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.022800 | 0.022624 | 1.1718 |
| Taiwan | NT Dollar | 0.029622 | 0.029394 | 1.5225 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000707 | 0.000702 | 0.0364 |

G & W clubshares
SEC License Broker No.: A-17597 As of September 9, 2002

| CLUB | SELLER | BUYER |
|---|---|---|
| Alabang Country Club "A" | 1,600,000 | - |
| Baguio Country Club | 730,000 | 680,000 |
| Camp John Hay | 290,000 | Pls. Call |
| Capitol Hills Golf & CC A/B* | 110,000 | Pls. Call |
| Canyon Woods | 190,000 | Pls. Call |
| Canlubang Golf | 550,000 | - |
| Calatagan Golf Club | 100,000 | - |
| Celebrity Sports Club | Pls. Call | Pls. Call |
| City Sports Club | 830,000 | Pls. Call |
| Club Filipino | Pls. Call | 150,000 |
| Eagleridge "A"/"C"* | 340,000/550,000* | - |
| Eastridge | 170,000 | - |
| Evercrest | 135,000 | - |
| Fairways & Blue Waters C1 | 600,000 | - |
| Fontana D/C*/A** | 70,000/140,000*/230,000** | 80,000 |
| Forest Hills "A"/"C" | 230,000/250,000* | 200,000 |
| Manila Golf Ind./Corp.* | Pls. Call* | 11,000,000 |
| Manila Polo | - | 2,600,000 |
| Makati Sports Club A/B* | Pls. Call/280,000* | - |
| Manila Yacht Club | 610,000 | 450,000 |
| Manila Southwoods A/B* | 650,000/720,000* | - |
| Metropolitan Club | 100,000 | - |
| Mimosa Golf Ind./CJ* | 140,000 | 265,000* |
| Mt Malarayat Ind./Corp.* | 350,000/450,000* | - |
| Orchard Golf Corp* | Pls. Call/Pls. Call* | Pls. Call |
| Phil. Columbian | 65,000 | Pls. Call |
| Puerto Azul "A"/"B" | 100,000/150,000* | - |
| Punta Fuego | 550,000 | - |
| Quezon City Sports Club "A" | - | 200,000 |
| Riviera Golf "A"/"C"* | 180,000/380,000* | 320,000* |
| Riviera Golf "B" | Pls Call | - |
| Royale Tagaytay A/C* | 90,000/Pls. Call* | - |
| Rockwell Club | 380,000 | - |
| Sherwoods "A"/"B"/"C"** | 105,000/Pls. Call* | - |
| Sta Elena Golf "A"/"B" | Pls. Call/Pls. Call* | Pls. Call |
| Subic Bay Yacht Club "Corp" | 330,000 | - |
| Subic Golf | 160,000 | - |
| Tagaytay Country Club | - | 350,000 |
| Tagaytay Highlands Golf & CC | - | 810,000 |
| Tagaytay Midlands | 830,000 | - |
| Valley Golf & CC | - | 270,000 |
| Valle Verde (Indv.) | 160,000 | 150,000 |
| Wack Wack Golf | 7,400,000 | - |

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Partial List : Please Call for Other Clubs ● 09/06/02

| | SELLING AT | BUYING AT | Last Date at Same Asked Price |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. ALABANG "A" | 1,600,000 | CALL NOW | Jan95 |
| 2. ALABANG "B" | 1,650,000 | — | — |
| 3. BAGUIO CC | 750,000 | 700,000 | July95 |
| 4. CALATAGAN GC "A" | 90,000 | — | May93 |
| 5. CAMP JOHN HAY | 300,000 | 250,000 | — |
| 6. CANLUBANG GC | 570,000 | — | Dec 90 |
| 7. CAPITOL HILLS | 115,000 | 100,000 | July 91 |
| 8. CC AT TAGAYTAY | 420,000 | — | <Pre-sell |
| 9. CELEBRITY CLUB | — | 170,000 | — |
| 10. FONTANA "C" | — | CALL NOW | — |
| 11. FOREST HILLS "B" | 300,000 | ------ | July90 |
| 12. MANILA GOLF (INDIV) | — | 11,000,000 | — |
| 13. MANILA POLO CLUB | 2,750,000 | 2,600,000 | March95 |
| 14. MLA SOUTHWOODS "A" | 640,000 | — | <Pre-sell |
| 15. MLA SOUTHWOODS "B" | 650,000 | 600,000 | — |
| 16. ORCHARD GCC "A" | CALL NOW | ------ | <Pre-sell |
| 17. PUNTA FUEGO | CALL NOW | — | — |
| 18. RIVIERA GCC "A" | CALL NOW | — | <Pre-sell |
| 19. STA. ELENA "A" | 1,850,000 | ------ | — |
| 20. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS | — | 800,000 | — |
| 21. TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS | 830,000 | — | — |
| 22. THE COUNTRY CLUB | CALL NOW | — | — |
| 23. VALLE VERDE | — | 140,000 | — |
| 24. VALLEY GOLF | — | 270,000 | — |
| 25. WACK WACK GOLF | CALL NOW | 6,675,000 | Mar98 |

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ALABANG CC "A" | 25,000 | RIVIERA CC "A" | 15,000 |
| CC AT TAGAYTAY | 10,000 | STA. ELENA "A" | 65,000 |
| EAGLERIDGE "A" | 10,000 | TAGAYTAY H'LANDS | 35,000 |
| MANILA GOLF | 400,000 | TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS | 30,000 |
| MIMOSA (INDIV) | 5,000 | WACK WACK GOLF | 90,000 |

A partial list of shareXCHANGE Clubs

| CLUB OFFERED | IN EXCHANGE FOR | CLUB OFFERED | IN EXCHANGE FOR |
|---|---|---|---|
| CANYON WOODS | CC @ TAGAYTAY | SHERWOOD HILLS | VALLEY GOLF |
| CAPITOL HILLS | FOREST HILLS "A" | ORCHARD "A" | STA. ELENA "A" |
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# Gov't plans new $1-B bond flotation

By Elena R. Torrijos

AFTER securing $300 million from the international bond market last week, the government plans to again issue bonds later this year and raise about $1 billion to cover its funding requirements for 2003.

In an interview Friday at the sidelines of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.'s 40th anniversary, National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government was looking at a yen or euro bond issue equivalent to $1 billion.

"But we're not discounting a dollar issue," Edeza said.

Last week, the government issued five-year sovereign bonds amounting to $300 million with a coupon of 7.5 percent, the lowest coupon ever achieved on similar tenors. The bonds will be listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange.

Edeza said the $300-million transaction was a trial or start of its pre-funding activities for future requirements. The government has set a P142-billion budget deficit target next year.

The recent bond issue allowed the government to tap the shorter end of the yield curve where underlying US treasury rates were low and all-in yields were attractive for the government.

He earlier noted: "The five-year bonds will also help smooth out the (country's) debt maturity profile." ING Bank N.V. was sole book runner of the transaction with BDO Capital and Investment Corp., Equitable PCI Bank and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. as joint sales agents.

Edeza said tapping the foreign markets for the latest round of borrowings was cheaper compared to prevailing rates in the local market.

He asserted that the government had already secured enough funds to finance this year's budget deficit, no matter what the final number would be.

Economic managers have been saying that the government would not tap the local market for additional funds to finance the deficit after it raised P63 billion from the issuance of three- and five-year retail bonds last June.

As of July, the national government's budget deficit had widened to P133 billion and analysts expect it to soar to P160 billion to P180 billion by the end of the year.

Through a $750-million, 15-year global bond in January, a $1-billion, 7-year global bond in March and a $300-million, 7-year borrowing in June, the government has so far raised $1.7 billion from the foreign markets to finance this year's budget gap against a programmed foreign funding of $1.5 billion.

# DOTC earmarks ₱200M for rural computer, phone center project

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT of Transportation and Communications has earmarked P200 million for its municipal telecenter project that will put telecommunications facilities and at least one computer in every barangay nationwide.

But the amount, according to communications assistant secretary for planning George Esguerra, has yet to be released by the Department of Budget and Management.

"Under our 2002 budget, we allotted P200 million for the project. But we're still waiting for advice from the DBM that the amount could be released," he said.

The P200-million telecenter budget will be used to buy computers and roll out telecommunications infrastructure in barangays all over the country.

Esguerra said P150 million would go to buying complete computer sets, with each set costing a little less than P100,000.

The remaining P50 million would be spent for other infrastructure needed to set up municipal telecenters, he added.

For this venture, he said the DOTC would be forging partnerships with the Department of Education, local government units and the private sector.

The municipal telecenter project will enhance the government's Telepono sa Barangay (TSB) project that started during the Ramos administration and spilled over to the Estrada regime.

It had two phases under the Ramos term, with the rest of the first phase carried out during the Estrada administration.

TSB-1 had a total project cost of more than P1.5 billion covering 347 barangays in eight provinces. A total of 3,470 telephone lines were installed in these provinces, which included Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Quezon, Lanao del Norte, Negros Oriental, Sulu, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi.

TSB-2 had a total project cost of almost P4 billion, covering 745 barangays in Lanao del Norte, Mountain Province, Ifugao, Kalinga, Apayao, Abra and Cagayan. A total of 2,613 telephone lines were installed here.

Under the Estrada administration, another 7,900 telephone lines were installed in 2,229 barangays all over Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Quezon, Lanao del Norte, Sulu, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi.

But work eventually stopped in Sulu, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi due to peace and order problems.

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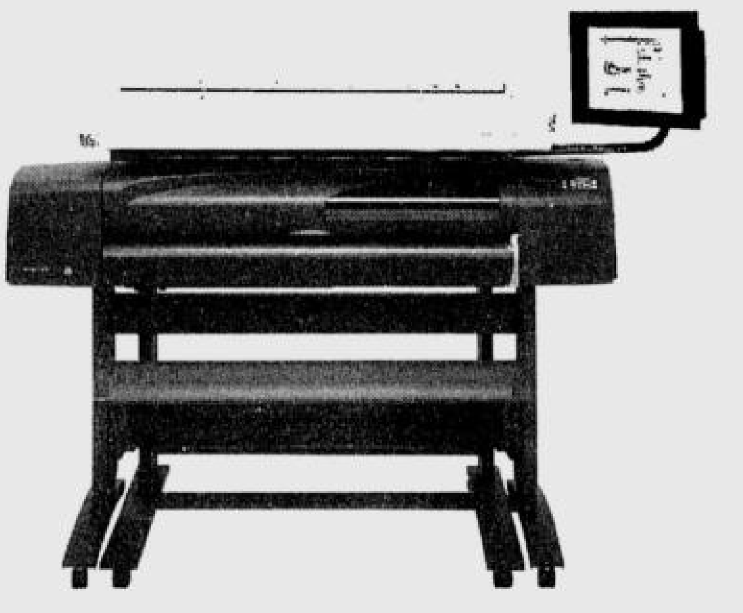

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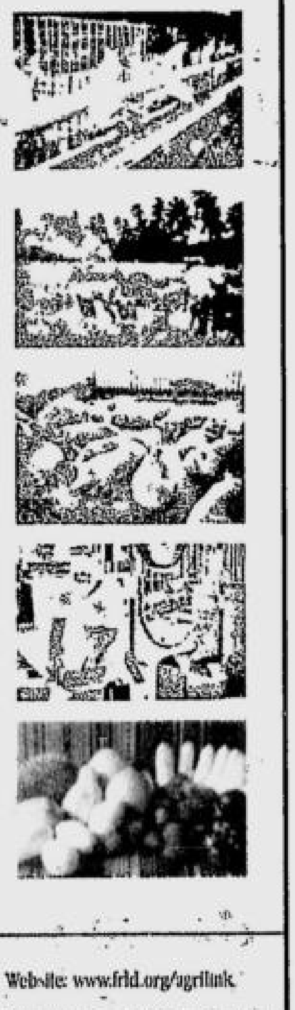

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## UNILEVER PHILIPPINES

# 'We intend to stay here for another 75 years'

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

THE PHILIPPINES may not be the best place to run a factory in a world with low or no tariff walls because its raw materials are inadequate or expensive and production costs are one of the highest in the region. Just ask the multinational corporations that have relocated to countries with a better business environment.

But don't tell that to Unilever Philippines president Howard Belton who said the Anglo-Dutch giant was sticking it out in the Philippines because it fervently believed that its local unit would remain a net exporter in the next five years when tariffs on all major consumer goods would have been slashed to minimal levels. "We have been here in the Philippines for 75 years, and we intend to be here for another 75 years."

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Belton said: "I'm not the first one to say that the Philippines has its disadvantages as a manufacturing base but we at Unilever believes that having a well-motivated, highly skilled workforce would be enough to overcome this country's inherent weaknesses."

Belton noted, for example, that even if the Philippines has one of the highest salary rates in the region (Unilever employees are among the best paid in the country), it has not prevented Unilever from being successful. "The cost of paying people to put stuff into boxes is an important but not a dominant part of the costs of production."

Belton said Unilever Philippines was tapped to be a supplier of deodorant sticks to Asia and Eastern Europe after its headquarters was impressed by the "speed and attitude of the mind" that the local unit showed in meeting the orders of Unilever Romania.

"We were able to deliver the product in just six weeks from the time we got their orders on the phone. Our people had to check the label's artwork and see if the language was right and find different perfume to see what would suit the Romanians. I don't think their factories could have delivered the same product as fast as we did."

Deodorant sticks are just one of several products that Unilever Philippines is hoping to be its key export products in the near- to medium-term. Unilever is also planning to be a major supplier of detergent bars, dressings (Lady's Choice), and Filipino-geared products such as ube and mango ice cream and food condiments.

Belton said Unilever currently produces 97 percent of the products it sells, which was unusual for a Philippine consumer goods company in an industry where most of the leading players have relocated their factories to other Asean countries that offer hefty savings in production costs.

"Five years ahead, we recognize the fact that this will not be the case. There are some things that we can manufacture here and some things that we can't manufacture here. The challenge for us is to build an export business for some products and our ambition is to be a net exporter," Belton said. "We think there is still a future for manufacturing in this country and that its key driver would be the Filipino workers themselves."

Since the late 1980s, Belton said Unilever has been gearing up for the imminent globalization of trade wherein companies would compete for market share not only with international but also with their sister companies overseas.

Unilever knew that for its Philippine factories to stay in business, the long, acrimonious relationship between management and labor should end because they needed to trust each other to take the necessary steps in securing their future. "We could not afford anymore disruptive CBA negotiations that would distract us from achieving our goals," Belton said. "The saddest thing to see is an industry trying to compete to survive only to be crippled by a strike."

To gain its employees' trust, Belton said Unilever laid down all the cards to let them know the company's plans and how they can contribute to their success.

"We told our employees that we have to be world class and not just ordinary players. We have to be flexible because not all jobs will remain but we hope to get more jobs in the end. We have to take this as an opportunity and not as threat."

Unilever further built on the trust of their employees by being among the first companies to bring union members in the regular meetings of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines. Its top officials also hold monthly *talakayan* meetings to get in touch with employees to know their problems and suggestions; a wealth of information that could get in handy during Unilever's board meetings.

Belton admitted that opening up to employees required a high level of maturity for both management and the union. "A lot of people would be scared to discuss the issue of job cuts. We think it was better to deal with the issue in the open because it had a better chance of getting dealt with more successfully. It was the only sensible course of action."

Unilever's main strategy was to get their workers to think for themselves and use their creativity to make improvements. Under its multi-skilling program, for instance, Unilever set out to train their factory workers to do three jobs that an operator, engineer and supervisor used to handle separately.

"We taught them how to check up on mechanical and electrical problems and supervise their own work. We gave them much more responsibility and they responded with higher productivity."

Belton said Unilever paid for the multi-skills training of their employees who, in turn, would invest their after-office hours in developing other skills for their added responsibilities. Unilever was awarded by the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines as "Outstanding Employer of the Year" in 1999 because of its skills development program. In a way, Belton said the company was just building on Unilever's tradition as a training ground for young Filipino graduates most of whom end up in high-profile government positions.

Unilever's efforts to build a blissful relationship with its 1,800 employees have so far been successful based on the two successful CBA negotiations in the last 10 years and the company's robust and consistent sales performance during the period.

BELTON

# More than electricity and energy, the economy itself is critical

**By Francisco L. Viray and Guido Alfredo A. Delgado**

THE PHILIPPINE power system is a big paradox. While there is a perceived "excess" power generation capacity that is causing electricity prices to "soar," the country is actually facing the prospect of another power shortage that could once again cripple the economy even before it has a chance to recover.

All we need is a 5- to 6-percent economic growth, and the entire system will once again be pushed into breaking point.

This was actually the scenario that the World Bank report presented. Unfortunately, it was quoted—or misquoted—only to malign the independent power producer program, the same program that the World Bank credited the Ramos administration for having "one of the few successful exercises in privatization of power generation throughout the developing world in recent years."

That World Bank report supposedly advised the Ramos administration in 1994 to stop entering into new contracts because the supply shortage had been sufficiently addressed.

We read the same report and while it raised the issue of a possible surplus in electricity, that same World Bank report also entertained the idea that a robust economic growth would require additional power supply.

Perhaps it is instructive to go back to the demand forecasts made by the World Bank and the National Power Corp. and compare the figures with the actual demand. In 1993, Napocor pegged the demand forecast for 1998 at 46,600 gigawatt-hours and for 2000 at 60,900 gWh. Then in 1995, Napocor downscaled its demand forecasts—to 43,500 gWh for 1998 and 55,600 gWh for 2000.

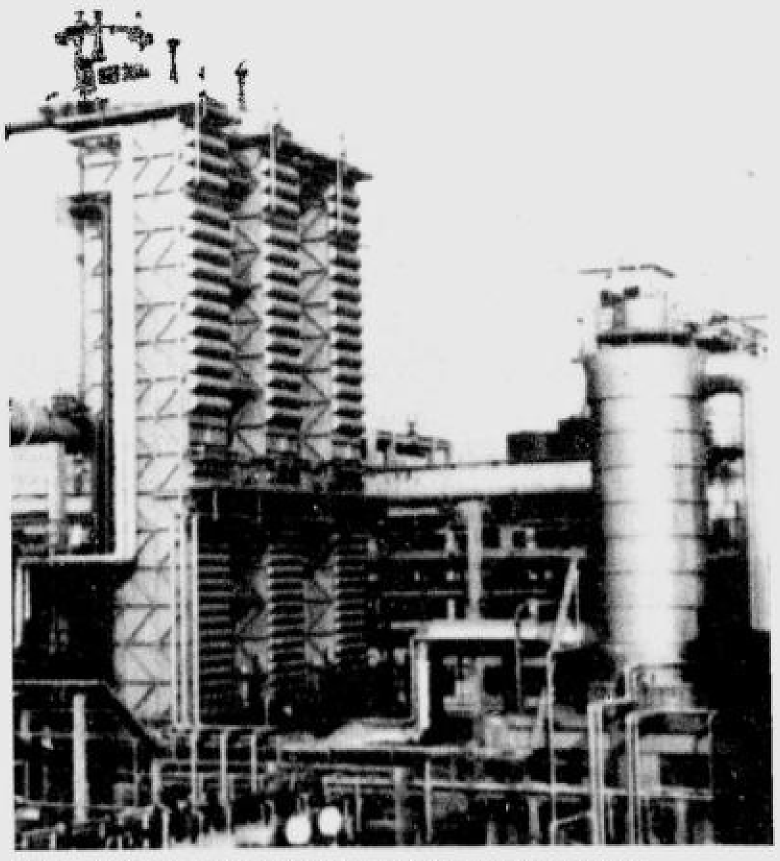
The World Bank's forecasts, which were done in 1994, were 36,800 gWh for 1998 and 41,400 gWh in 2000. What did experience teach us? Had we blindly followed the World Bank, we would have had some power shortage as actual demand was 39,297 gWh for 1998 and 42,107 gWh for 2000.

Cielito Habito, who headed the National Economic and Development Authority during the Ramos administration, says that as a rule, demand for electricity increases at a faster rate than the growth of the whole economy—a 1-percentage-point growth in gross national product could induce a 1.5- to 2-percentage-point growth in the demand for electricity. Therefore, a 4-percent GNP growth could push the country's demand for electricity by about 6 percent to 8 percent. This was the assumption we had when we drafted the Philippine Energy Plan that we annually submit to Congress in compliance with the DOE Law.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr., in his speech before the Makati Business Club on June 24, 2002, estimated the excess capacity of the system to be at 11 percent, or 1,235 megawatts. Of the total dependable capacity of 11,191 MW, slightly more than half are hydro (23 percent) and geothermal (30 percent). The reserve margin, the capacity needed to provide a secure supply of power, is given at 22 percent to 30 percent or at least 2,462 MW.

Hydro and geothermal plants are considered volatile because they depend on water and steam flows. An occurrence of an El Niño, which the government should be preparing for by now, could bring down electricity production of these plants drastically. Historically, the variation averages at 32 percent from peak to through.

Most plants too are aging and those that used to run efficiently have started to churn out less electricity. The government estimated that 15 percent of the country's available power capacity has less than 10 years of usefulness. *To be continued*



ONE of the many power plants build under the Ramos administration to deal with a crippling energy crisis

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# Plastics firms press scheduled cuts in tariffs

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

THE PHILIPPINE Plastic Industry Association (PPIA) has warned that the packaging industry will shrink drastically if the government pushes through with its plan to defer the scheduled tariff cuts on plastic resins next year.

In a letter to Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II, PPIA president Joseph Mancilla said a delay would preserve the current tariff distortion wherein plastic raw materials were levied a higher duty of 15 percent versus the 5-percent tariff on finished plastic products.

Mancilla warned that should the government allow this abnormal tariff situation to persist, it would be more viable to import plastic containers for consumer goods makers to import their packaging materials.

Mancilla said while a deferment could, at first glance, be beneficial to the petrochemical industry, resin manufacturers would, in the long run, also fold up with the loss or decay of their single, biggest customer—the local plastics industry.

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier ordered her economic team to review petitions of several industries, including the petrochemical industry, for a suspension of scheduled tariff cuts under the Asean Free Trade Area-Common Effective Preferential Tariff.

The Afta-CEPT tariff cuts are set to take effect on Jan. 1 next year.

Duties on resins—polyethylene, polypropylene and polyvinyl chloride—will be slashed from 15 to 5 percent or at par with the finished plastic products.

The Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines said it was aware of the tariff distortion, which was why it petitioned not only to raise duties on polymers from 15 to 30 percent until 2010 but also to raise duties on finished plastic products to a level 5 percent higher than resins.

APMP chair and JG Petrochemical president Willie Paras said the tariff hike was aimed at helping the industry survive its "infancy stage," having been established only in 1998.

A longer and higher tariff protection will allow petrochemical firms to establish a naphtha cracker and integrate their operations to make them more competitive with other Asean countries with mature plastic industries, Paras said.

# Napocor defers special program to boost demand

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. has said the government's Special Program to Enhance Electricity Demand (SPEED) would have to be put off for October instead of starting this month.

Napocor president Roland Quilala said in an interview, however, that the discount scheme would be implemented in cooperation with 10 distribution utilities instead of only the Manila Electric Co.

"Aside from that, both industrial and commercial customers would benefit from the discounts as soon as the program is implemented," Quilala said

. Speed was supposed to apply initially to Napocor and Meralco industrial customers with an average demand of 1 megawatt a month.

Napocor intended to give a discount of 80 centavos per kilowatt-hour consumption beyond the average demand while Meralco committed an additional 12 centavos.

"Napocor expects to sign a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Energy and 10 utilities next week," the Napocor chief said.

The official said the distributors involved included those holding franchises in Metro Manila and neighboring provinces, Angeles City, Dagupan City, Tarlac, Cebu, Davao and Cagayan de Oro.

"We propose to give discounts of 80 centavos per kWh for qualified customers in Luzon, 70 centavos for Visayas and 10 centavos for Mindanao," Quilala said.

He added that the MOA would have to be approved by the utilities' managements first before applications for rate adjustments could be submitted to the Energy Regulatory Commission.

SPEED is part of Malacañang's 10-point program of making electricity more affordable.

Last month, the Semiconductor and Electronic Industries in the Philippines (Seipi) said the government's 10-point program was seen as a boost for the group's hopes for recovery in the next two years.

Seipi executive director Ernie Santiago said member-companies started enjoying reductions of 10 to 15 percent in their electricity bills in July.

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered Napocor in May to reduce its purchased power cost adjustment fees by an average of 85 centavos per kWh.

The PPCA is used to cover for costs of electricity bought from independent power producers.

On the other hand, the Napocor Industrial Customers Association said reductions were not significant enough for their members.

Nica spokesperson Robert Mallillin said in a telephone interview the proposed incentive program was good only for those industries whose plants could increase operation time.

"But the facilities of most of our members—like the cement manufacturers—are already running day in and day out," Mallillin said. "There's no way these firms could increase electricity use."

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# RFM unit in new ventures

PHILIPPINE Townships Inc., the property unit of food and beverage conglomerate RFM Corp., is embarking on new middle-income housing ventures in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, that will cater to growing residential requirements near the economic zones.

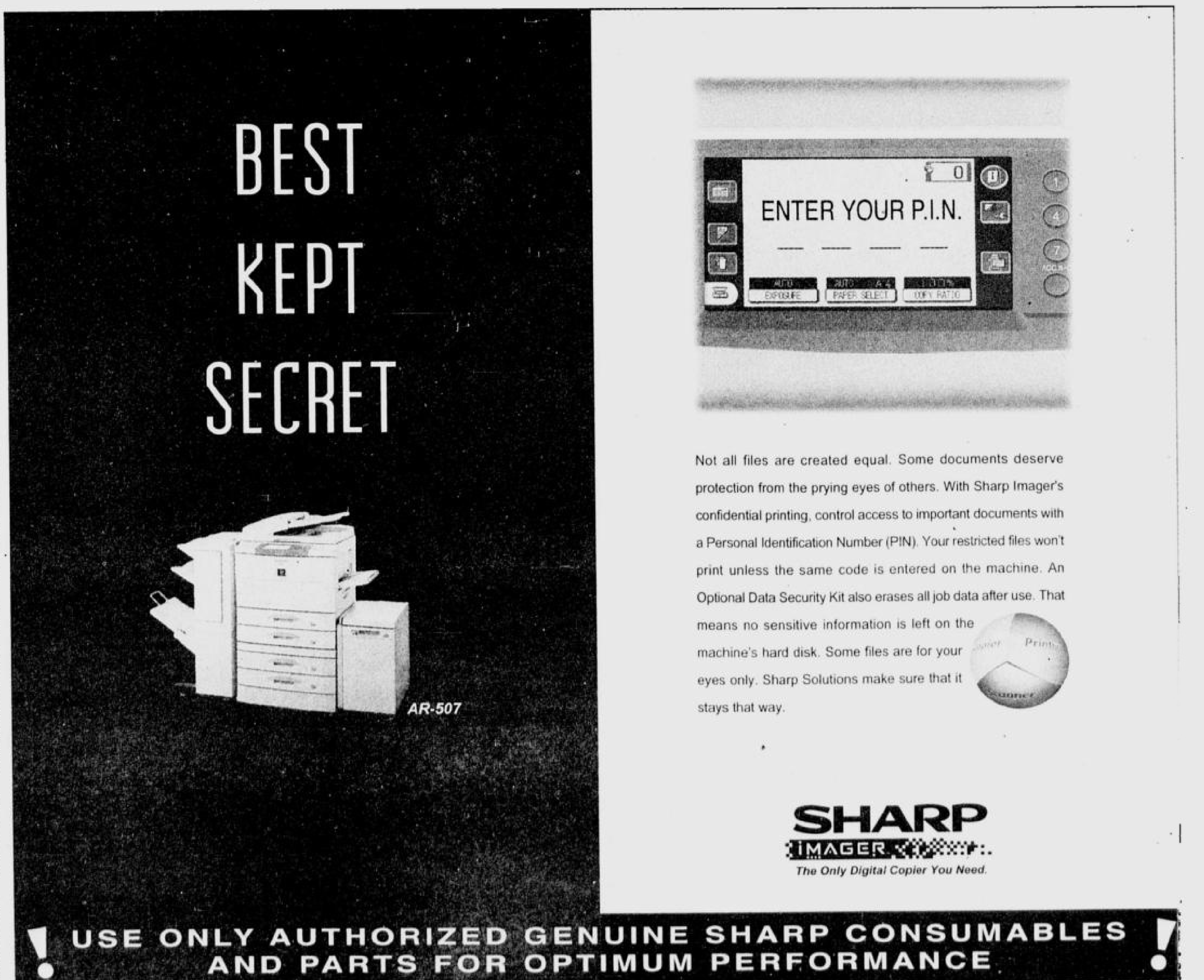
In a recent briefing, Philtown president Raul Martinez said Philtown had identified two residential projects with a size of 30 hectares each and was hoping to jumpstart construction by the first quarter of next year.

"There are a lot of industrial estates so there's a rise in housing needs," Martinez said.

To date, Martinez said the project was on "permeation" stage as Philtown was still seeking its license to start selling. While Philtown would develop the subdivisions, the strategy is to sell lots only instead of house-and-lot units.

The middle-income market eyed by Philtown is the income group which could afford to pay P500,000 to P3 million for each unit.

He estimated that the cost of development for a middle-income residential property would be P1,000 per square meter while the development process could be completed in two years. ***Doris C. Dumlao***



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UM

Dante D. Diamante
UM

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AUM

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AUM

Virginia S. Sun
AUM

Zenaida S. Tan
AUM

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Marilou C. Tan
UM

Teresita F. Ney
UM

Christine Chan Lee
UM

Aida C. Deveza
UM

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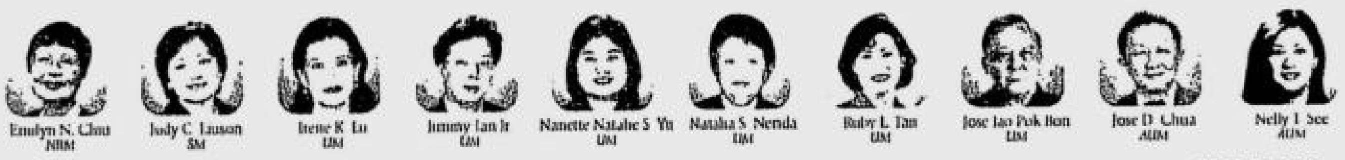
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UM

Daisy L. [illegible]
UM

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Ramil H. Candola
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Sun Life Financial

# SPAV may drive away investors, BAP warns

By Elena R. Torrijos

INSTEAD of encouraging banks to sell their roughly P300 billion in soured loans, the Special Purpose Asset Vehicle bill will deter banks from selling their bad loans through asset management companies or special purpose asset vehicles, Bankers Association of the Philippines president Cesar Virata told reporters on Friday.

The SPAV bill is supposed to provide tax breaks and other incentives for banks and other financial institutions to dispose of their bad loans or acquired assets, so that proceeds could be used again for lending to businesses and individuals and, therefore, spur economic growth.

Virata said banks would not sell their loans because under the current version of the SPAV bill, a bank that would sell a bad loan to an asset management company would be prohibited from pursuing the remaining obligation of the borrower.

He said banks would rather sell their acquired assets, which amounted to over P100 billion or much smaller than the nearly P300 billion in bad loans that banks were burdened with.

Virata said earlier BAP might ask President Macapagal-Arroyo to veto the SPAV bill, given that in the current version, the SPAV bill would encourage more borrowers to default on their loans and, at the same time, drive away investors.

In a position paper on the latest Senate version of the SPAV bill, the BAP said certain provisions in particular that the BAP was against were Sections 13 and 14.

Section 13 provides that the assignment of credits should not apply to the transfer of non-performing loans.

"That will not only encourage more loan defaults but will also discourage the SPAVs from participating in the program because they know that once they acquire the NPL, all that the debtor would do is to pay them the price they paid to the financial institution and some interest. There will, therefore, be no business reason for them to participate in the program," the BAP said in its position paper.

The BAP also objected to the last provision of Section 13 that stated that "after the transfer of a financial institution's non-performing assets to the SPAV, the financial institution shall have no further claim or right of action against the borrower."

The BAP noted that it might happen that the financial institution would transfer acquired assets to the SPAV without transferring its claim to the remaining obligation, if any, of the borrower that defaulted.

The BAP also pushed for the deletion of Section 14 that, like Section 13, would encourage more borrowers to default on their loans and, at the same time, drive away investors.

# Pre-need to overtake insurance in 5 yrs.

THE PRE-NEED industry has been growing annually at the rate of almost 40 percent the past three years and is expected to continue this growth trend and eventually overtake the insurance industry in size in five years.

"The pre-need industry is growing so fast after only 35 years in the business because we offer more in terms of returns to our clients and because we address the basic needs and concerns of millions of Filipinos on how to invest their present disposable income now for a future need," Miguel Vazquez, president of the Philippine Federation of Pre-Need Companies, said.

The industry, a Filipino concept now being copied abroad, in effect is an alternative to banks as far as generating savings and many families have found the more personal approach of the pre-need companies warmer, he said.

Pre-need companies allow parents to invest periodically small amounts now for the future education of their children, for their pension plan during retirement, and for memorial services. These plans can also be terminated for their cash value or resold to third parties.

The industry offers higher interest earnings than banks and insurance companies, Vazquez said.

"Most of us also give free insurance policies from big insurance companies to go with our plans," he said. "In fact, we as an industry are the biggest clients of the insurance sector."

Because of this fast growth pace, the Securities and Exchange Commission has been tightening up on its supervision of the industry to protect the public.

"We are all for this," Vazquez said, "because it forces everybody to shape up, and a strong and stable industry means more clients because they would trust us."

Among the 45 members of the industry, he said, the race is to comply with the minimum capital requirement of P100 million, and 23 companies are now at this level.

# Chinese firm set to invest in Primeplan

A CHINESE company is set to invest in Primeplan International Corp. to bring the local pre-need firm's paid-up capital to P50 million and meet the minimum requirement of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

SEC non-traditional securities and instruments department director Emil Aquino identified the investor as Brigh Sun.

Aquino said with a foreign investor on board, Primeplan was now set on raising its capital to as much as P100 million.

The SEC earlier gave Primeplan until the end of August to raise its paid-up capital from P35.2 million to P50 million or risk losing its license.

Aquino said since the delay in the remittances of Brigh Sun's investment in Primeplan was caused by a currency conversion problem, the SEC decided to give the pre-need company more time to comply.

Primeplan has a trust fund of about P32.9 million and has 6.336 planholders. *Elena R. Torrijos*

**FINANCE** Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho (left) swears into office newly appointed Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. President Macapagal-Arroyo has instructed Parayno to implement reforms needed to increase the government's tax collections.

# BTr scraps plan to offer ₱7B in bonds

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Treasury has set aside the issuance of P7 billion in dollar hedge bonds and may also cancel some local bonds issues in the fourth quarter after raising a fresh $300 million from the five-year foreign bond market last week.

"With these new funds, we can postpone the dollar-linked, and even cancel, some bonds in the fourth quarter," said National Treasurer Sergio Edeza.

At the same time, Edeza said the government had scrapped a plan to trim by P4 billion every auction the size of the treasury bills to be sold in the local market during the last three months of the year.

"We will no longer cut the T-bill volume in the fourth quarter. We will keep it at P9 billion every auction. We will just surprise the market by rejecting unreasonable bids," said Edeza.

The likely scenario is for the Treasury to cancel all bond issues in December as the government winds down on its borrowings for the year, he said.

The government sells P9 billion worth of T-bills twice a month and about P3 billion worth of bonds with varying tenors weekly. Proceeds from the regular auction plus issuance every once in a while of new instruments like retail treasury bonds and dollar-linked peso bonds have helped the government plug the deficit.

# Gov't agencies told to enforce governance code

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has asked government agencies to require companies they deal with to comply with the Code of Corporate Governance before allowing these companies to avail of benefits from the government.

This was disclosed by SEC Associate Commissioner Joselia Poblador in a speech Friday before attendees of a corporate governance forum.

Poblador said SEC Chair Lilia Bautista had already written to various government agencies to apply the code as a condition to benefit the availment to companies that were getting incentives from the government or were obtaining loans from government financial institutions.

The Code of Corporate Governance, approved by the commission earlier this year, is aimed at preventing corporate failure arising from conflicts of interest or from simple neglect of board directors to properly oversee management.

Specifically, the code requires covered companies—at present public companies or units of foreign public companies and those with a secondary license from the SEC such—to come up with a manual of operations based on the Code of Corporate Governance or international best practices.

# Leasing company plans SME listing

LEASING company Makati Finance Corp., a subsidiary of Amalgamated Investment Bancorporation, has applied for listing on the small and medium enterprise board of the Philippine Stock Exchange to raise up to P42 million this year.

PSE head of listings department Ma. Isabel Garcia said the local bourse received MFC's application for an initial public offering on Aug. 30.

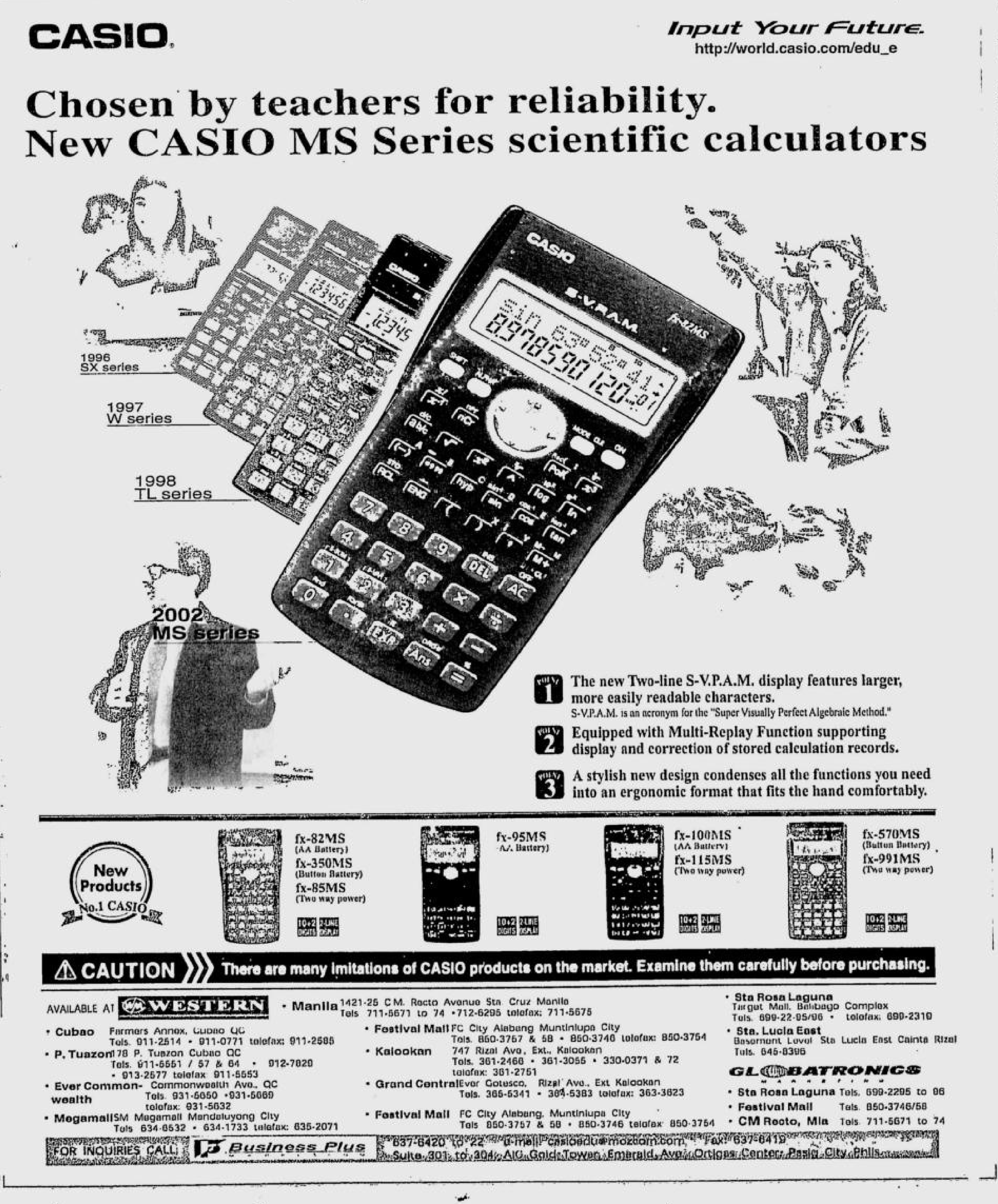
Under the PSE's new program to speed up IPO applications, companies should be able to make their public debut within 59 trading days after application.

MFC will, therefore, be the second company to list on the SME board of the local stock exchange, next to software service firm SQL Wizard Inc., which went public last year.

It will also be the sixth listing in the PSE this year after Citystate Savings Bank, Salcon Power Corp., Highlands Prime Inc., Banco de Oro Universal Bank and Jolliville Holdings Corp.

Earlier this year, the Tambunting family's pawnshop unit, TFS Inc., was supposed to list on the SME board but backed out due to poor market conditions.

MFC is 51 percent owned by investment bank AIB, which is owned by Singaporean and Filipino nationals and specializes in money market operations, trading, debt and equity underwriting, and mergers and acquisitions.



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# Apec economies struggle with slow recovery

LOS CABOS, Mexico—Asia-Pacific finance ministers grappled here with heightened economic risks as they felt the impact of sliding world stock markets and faltering growth in the United States, Japan and Europe.

Most economic indicators suggested the world economy was in recovery, said a joint statement released Friday after a two-day gathering of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum.

"The current recovery in Apec economies has been supported by robust consumer spending and intra-regional trade," it said.

"Nevertheless, uncertainties regarding the strength and pace of the expansion remain." Just five days before the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, which temporarily stunned the global economy, most of the talks at this Mexican beach resort centered on how to halt money flows to terrorists.

But after a plunge on Wall Street and other world markets, battered by a series of US corporate accounting scandals, many Asia-Pacific economies were preoccupied with the economic outlook.

"Of course, our main concern is about global economic development because that will affect very much our economy," said Indonesia's delegation chief, senior economic advisor Jannes Hutagalung.

"Sustainable growth in the US, Japan and European economies is really our main concern," he told AFP.

Apec economies, rich and poor, were the driving force behind the global economic recovery in the first half of 2002, World Bank managing director Jeffrey Goldstein told Apec members.

"Recent steep falls in global equity markets have, however, reawakened concerns about underlying vulnerabilities in leading economies and hence about the strength of the global recovery going forward."

The US economy had slowed substantially after the first quarter of this year, he said.

"There is now more concern that large recent losses in equity wealth combined with high levels of corporate and household debt could lead to a more protracted period of slow growth."

Recovery in the 12-nation euro area had been weak in 2002 and prospects for Japan remained clouded by its unresolved problems in the financial sector and bulging fiscal shortfall, Goldstein said.

US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill expressed frustration with the sluggish pace of Japanese and European growth.

"One of the things that would be helpful would be for Japan and Europe to be growing at a faster rate than they are growing—it is on the table, it is there," he told reporters.

East Asia's economic growth prospects for 2002 and 2003 also were deteriorating because of the faltering US and global recoveries, Asian Development Bank (ADB) president Tadao Chino told ministers.

Five key challenges faced Asian economies, he said:

- Pursuing a long and substantial agenda to improve regulation and supervision of banks.
- Slimming down bank networks and staffing and revamping their processes for loan approvals and other procedures.
- Restructuring companies.
- Strengthening financial markets.
- Greater integration of East Asian economies in trade, investment and in monetary and financial cooperation.

*AFP*

# IMF gives formal approval to record loan worth $30.4B

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund gave its formal approval Friday to a $30.4-billion loan for Brazil, the largest ever for the organization, an IMF spokesperson said.

The IMF last month agreed in principle on the 15-month standby credit, which is in addition to a $15.2-billion program approved last year.

The deal is aimed at steadying the economy in Brazil, where financial markets have been buffeted by worries about the policies that might be implemented after presidential elections in October and vulnerability to the crisis in Argentina.

The IMF said in a statement the approval of the new credit "opens the way for an immediate drawing" of up to $3 billion.

The move was expected after IMF management reached agreement last month with Brazil on the new loan, which is designed to hold the Brazilian government to the current fiscal targets over the next three years.

The massive IMF program requires Brazil to maintain its target of achieving a primary budget surplus—not including debt payments—equal to at least 3.75 percent of gross domestic product during 2003. The target is to be reviewed each quarter.

Brazil's budgetary guidelines law for 2004 and 2005 must keep the same target, or better.

In addition, the IMF agreed to free up another $10 billion in Brazil by loosening an agreed stipulation on how much the country must keep in reserves.

A new government will take office early next year after the presidential elections next month.

*AFP*

# Intel tightens Q3 revenue forecast

SAN FRANCISCO—Intel Corp. on Thursday tightened its revenue forecast for the third quarter, pushing it slightly below the midpoint of the $6.3 billion to $6.9 billion range it gave in July, sending its shares and those of other technology firms higher in after-hours trade.

The revised guidance puts the world's largest chipmaker's revenue at slightly less than $6.6 billion, the midpoint of the range, and it means revenue could be largely in line with analysts' current revenue expectations. Intel's new revenue range is $6.3 billion to $6.7 billion.

Analysts expected the Santa Clara, California-based company to post a profit of 13 cents a share, within a range of 11 cents to 14 cents, on revenue of $6.60 billion in the third quarter, according to tracking firm Thomson First Call.

Analysts had, since Tuesday, issued research notes saying they believed Intel would drop its revenue forecast to the low end of the range, which the company did not do.

"We may see a little bit of a relief rally tomorrow because the announcement avoided some of the more negative expectations out there," said Dan Scovel, an analyst at Needham & Co., who had expected revenue of $6.6 billion. He said he does not own Intel stock.

"I feel very good about the range we've projected here materializing in the quarter," said Paul Otellini, Intel's president and chief operating officer, on a conference call to discuss the update. Business so far is "not outside of the boundaries of what we've seen in the last five or six years."

Intel's mid-quarter update comes as the company hosts next week in San Jose, California, its semiannual Intel Developer forum, where it is expected to introduce faster processors for server computers and discuss innovations in semiconductor design and manufacturing that it hopes will keep it in front of the industry in the years ahead.

Intel shares rose in after-hours trading, partially recovering the loss marked in Nasdaq trade. The stock rose to $15.72 on the Island system, up from $15.11 at the close, but still down 2 percent from Wednesday.

*Reuters*

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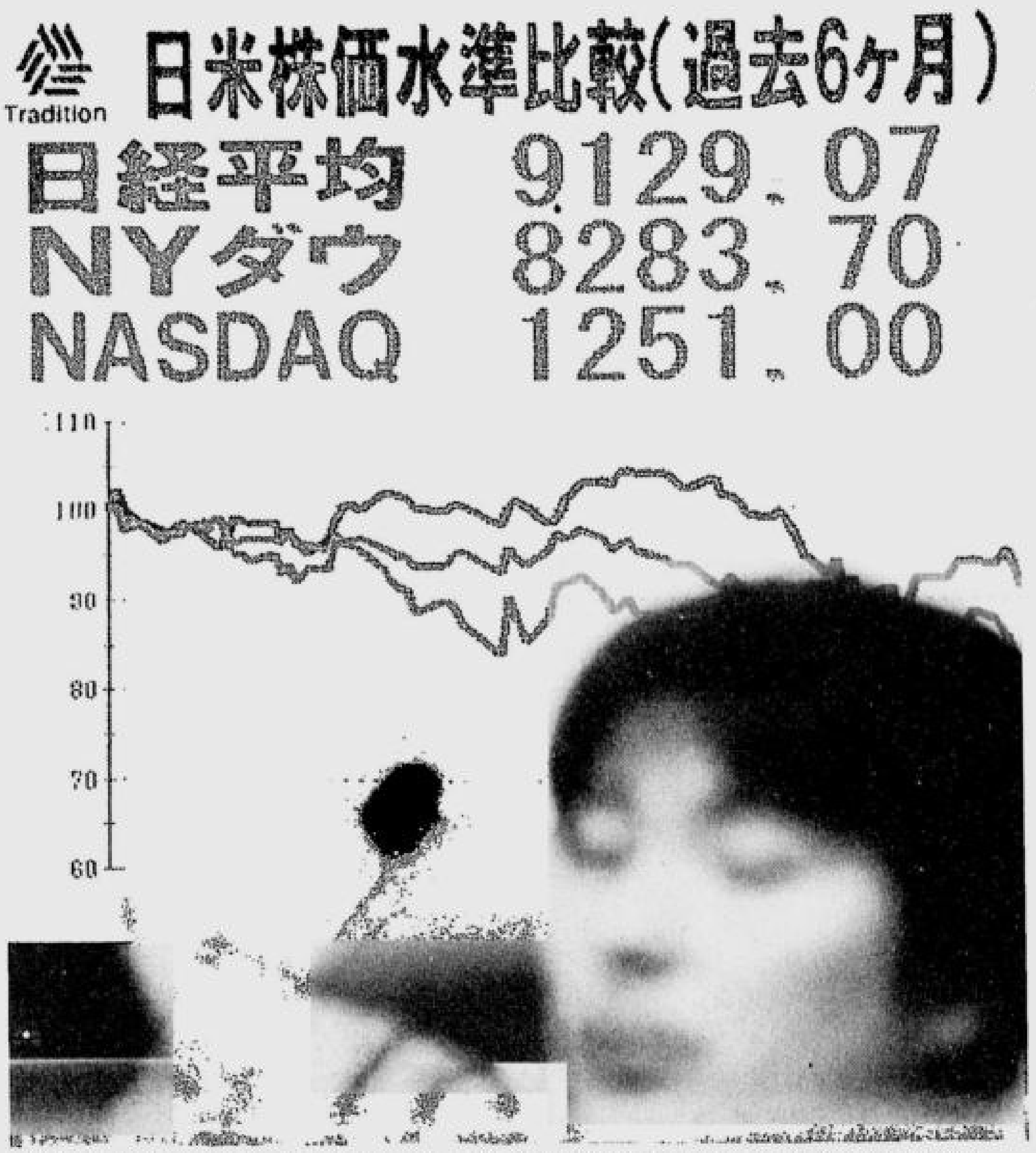


A MONEY trader relaxes before a quotation board flashing share price indexes at a foreign money brokerage in Tokyo. The Nikkei-225 average shed 93.05 points to 9,129.07 after briefly dipping below the crucial 9,000-point mark. AFP

# ADB warns of deteriorating East Asia growth prospects

LOS CABOS, Mexico—East Asia's economic growth prospects for 2002 and 2003 are deteriorating because of the faltering United States and global recoveries, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said here.

By July this year, there had been a growing consensus the region would enjoy gross domestic product (GDP) growth of about 6 percent this year, up from 4.3 percent last year, ADB president Tadao Chino told Asia-Pacific finance ministers, who wrap up a two-day conference Friday.

"Data released on first quarter GDP growth as well as a variety of other economic indicators for more recent months seemed to confirm that sentiment," he told the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum.

"However, signs of a weakening in the recovery process in the US and in the global economy in the last month or so require a reevaluation of the forecasts," Chino told the Apec finance ministers.

The ADB chief said he was encouraged that domestic demand held up well in many East Asian economies and had supported an export-led rebound.

"However, if this year's pickup in East Asian exports begins to ease because of slower global growth, the region's rebound may start faltering. In these circumstances, the region's economic outlook for both this year and next needs to be reassessed." The ADB was revising its GDP forecasts for developing country members, which would be released later this month in an update of the annual Asian Development Outlook, which tracks the region's economic trends.

But Chino also said that the region had advanced in restructuring companies and the financial sector.

As a result, non-performing loans in East Asia were on a downward trend, and capital adequacy ratios—the proportion of capital put to one side by banks to safeguard against credit exposure—were improving.

"Recognizing the region's progress in reforms and restructuring, international credit rating agencies have, in the last six months, upgraded their sovereign credit ratings for the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and Malaysia, and revised their outlooks for the Philippines and Thailand," he noted. *AFP*

# Japan, Asean may start economic talks in '03

TOKYO—Japan and Southeast Asian nations could start discussions toward wide-ranging economic cooperation, including a free trade agreement, as early as next year, Japanese media said on Saturday.

Japan proposed such an economic partnership earlier this year with the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) in what has been widely seen as a bid to keep China's influence in the region under check.

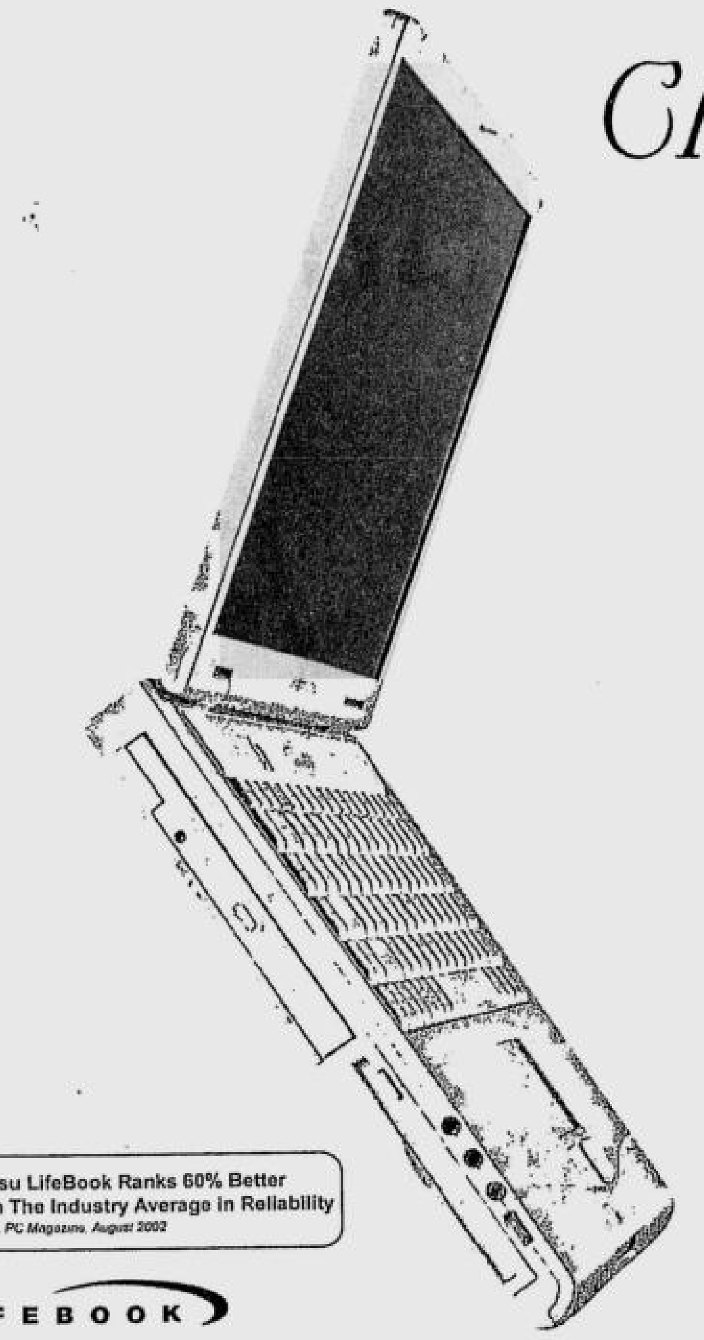
China agreed last year to establish a free-trade area with Asean within 10 years.

Quoting a report by a group of experts from both Japan and Asean, Kyodo news agency said a committee will be formed to draw together a basic framework of contents and concrete plans for such a partnership by autumn of 2003.

Should this be approved at a Japan-Asean summit scheduled for late in 2003, official negotiations could then begin, Kyodo quoted the report as saying.

No time frame was given for reaching such an agreement.

Kyodo said the report would be submitted at a gathering of finance ministers from Japan and Asean in Brunei next week.



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# Nippon Steel raises group profit estimate

TOKYO—Japan's largest steelmaker, Nippon Steel Corp., said on Friday it has raised its full year group profit forecasts by 5 billion yen ($42 million) to 125 billion yen ($1.06 billion), helped by improving conditions for the sector.

The upbeat outlook was also seen in profit forecasts revised higher by Kawasaki Steel Corp. and Sumitomo Metal Industries Ltd. earlier in the day.

Nippon Steel kept its full-year group net profit forecast unchanged for the business year ending next March at 25 billion yen on marginally higher sales of 2.66 trillion yen.

Nippon Steel, like other steel makers, cited strong external demand and improved profitability from restructuring efforts as factors contributing to the upbeat outlook.

The upward profit forecast revision comes after four of Japan's "big five" steel companies fell into the red last year due to fierce competition, weak demand and pressure for price cuts from automakers and electronics firms.

All of them are forecasting profits for this year as restructuring and consolidation programs bear fruit and stronger international demand, particularly in Asia, stiffens their bottom lines.

However, Nippon Steel cut its six-month group earnings forecast to a net loss of 10 billion yen from an earlier estimate of a three billion yen profit on sales of 1.21 trillion yen, slightly higher than previously forecast.

Nippon Steel said it plans to book about 14 billion yen in one-time losses in the six months ending in September from the write-down of personnel and securities-related losses.

The steelmaker said it expects to gain a 27 billion yen special profit from the listing soon of information systems developer NS Solutions Corp. *Reuters*

# McDonald's mulls plan to spur lackluster sales

NEW YORK—McDonald's Corp. said on Friday that it would discount two sandwiches and promote a menu of $1 items across the United States starting this fall, in a bid to spruce up lackluster sales in its biggest market.

The promotions are part of a strategy to drive growth in the United States, the company said in a statement. Roughly half of McDonald's US restaurants now offer a dollar menu, but Friday's announcement marks the first time McDonald's said it would roll it out on a nationwide basis.

Other proposals call for measures to improve customer service during peak lunch hours and investment in select restaurants for improvements ranging from new signs to complete restaurant remodeling, McDonald's said.

Details of the plan to boost US sales—which was discussed at a hastily convened meeting headed by chief executive Jack Greenberg and its president of US restaurants, Michael Roberts, in Las Vegas earlier this week—are subject to vote by individual restaurant owners, which operate about 85 percent of McDonald's US restaurants.

The plan has received mixed reviews from restaurant owners and Wall Street analysts, but some said the urgency of the meeting suggested the plan is a sign of desperation.

McDonald's launch of a national dollar menu is an attempt to capitalize on the success of a 99-cent menu that has long been in place at rival Wendy's International, which has posted several quarters of strong growth, noted Peter Oakes at Merrill Lynch. *Reuters*

# US jobs report points to modest growth

WASHINGTON—A better-than-expected report on the US labor market Friday indicates the economy is poised for modest growth ahead and is likely to avoid a slide back into recession, analysts said.

The US economy generated 39,000 nonfarm jobs in August and the unemployment rate dipped to 5.7 percent from 5.9 percent in July, the Labor Department said.

The agency also revised its figures for the prior two months. In July, payrolls rose a revised 67,000, up from the initial estimate of a 6,000 rise while job growth in June was revised downward to a gain of 34,000 from the previous estimate of a 66,000 rise.

"The bottom line on this employment report is that it is OK—not decisively weak, yet not strong," said Dick Rippe of Prudential Securities. "It is, however, in line with an economy that is gaining at a slow, but positive pace."

Economists view the labor report as crucial to US economic prospects because jobs need to be added to maintain consumer spending, which accounts for about two-thirds of US gross domestic product.

Wall Street reacted positively to the report, with the Dow Jones industrials up 1.7 percent and the Nasdaq closing 3.54 percent higher.

The report, said most market watchers, was just strong enough to keep the US economy out of a feared "double-dip" recession, while not weak enough to prompt a rate cut by the Federal Reserve to help stimulate growth.

"The labor market may not be totally hale and hearty, but it is far from falling apart," said Joel Naroff of Naroff Economic Advisors.

"Today's data will again confound investors looking for table-pounding calls for a boom or bust economy, when a choppy, gradual and modest recovery seems most likely," added Steven Wieting of Salomon Smith Barney.

But economists remained concerned about the loss of manufacturing jobs, which was offset by growth in government and service sector jobs.

Manufacturing jobs fell 68,000 in August, the largest decline since January.

Construction jobs rose by 34,000 in August after falling 30,000 in July.

Government jobs increased by 41,000 after rising 20,000 in the previous month.

Employment in the services sector rose by 100,000 in August, the largest gain since November 2000, while retail trade employment fell 55,000.

The White House seized on the report to press for further measures to help the economy including legislation dealing on terrorism insurance and pension reform.

*AFP*

# Wall Street looks forward and back as Sept. 11 anniversary approaches

NEW YORK—Wall Street generally looks forward, not back.

These days it's doing both as it prepares for Wednesday's anniversary of the airliner hijack attacks.

A year after the attacks destroyed the World Trade Center and damaged the Pentagon, investors are still scared about the possibility of more terrorism. Some worry that new attacks may be attempted on the anniversary.

"There's lots of uncertainty out there, but this is a difficult ball game," said Michael Murphy, head trader at Wachovia Securities. "We were violated . . . It raises the fear that it could happen again."

For many in the investment community, Sept. 11 will be a day to focus more on lost lives, on family and friendship, than on the whims of the market.

"What happened on that date takes priority over what short-term gyrations the market may be experiencing," said Richard A. Dickson, technical analyst for Hilliard Lyons in Louisville, Kentucky.

Trading of stocks will be delayed until late morning on Sept. 11, at the conclusion of a memorial service at the World Trade Center site where the names of the 3,000 victims will be read. At brokerages and financial firms across the country, other, smaller ceremonies will take place.

Murphy, whose office is in Baltimore, will spend the day in New York with his firm's traders at the New York Stock Exchange.

AFP

**A TAIPEI economic billboard shows Taiwan's stock market falling 1.2 percent, or 53.91 points to close at 4,534.15, the lowest level this year, on Sept. 4, 2002.**

"I have tried to put it behind me. I lost a lot of friends there. Everybody knew somebody there," Murphy said. "People are definitely going to be reflective."

While the threat of future attacks is the biggest uncertainty facing Wall Street, the market has moved on. The lows the market made after the attacks, when the Dow Jones industrials fell to 8,235.81, have been replaced by lows of this past summer when the Dow fell to 7,702.23 on July 23. The Dow is now some 700 points above that.

And there are other worries on investors' minds—whether the economy is getting stronger or slipping back into recession, and whether there will be a war with Iraq.

When the Sept. 11 anniversary passes, analysts say the market will turn its attention back to those concerns, particularly as companies begin issuing their third-quarter profit warnings.

"Once it is over, people will want to move forward," said Murphy of Wachovia Securities.

This past week was volatile on Wall Street with the stock indexes vacillating between big sell offs and big rallies. Every day, the Dow had a triple-digit move, alternately down and up.

For the week, the Dow lost 236.30, or 2.7 percent, despite climbing 143.50 on Friday. The Dow closed the week at 8,427.20.

The Nasdaq composite index had a weekly decline of 19.55, or 1.5 percent. On Friday, the Nasdaq rose 44.30 to 1,295.30.

For the week, the Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 22.15, or 2.4 percent. On Friday, the S&P advanced 14.77 to 893.92.

The Russell 2000 index had a weekly slip of 0.61, or 0.2 percent. On Friday, the Russell, which tracks smaller company stocks, rose 10.51 to 391.57.

*AP*

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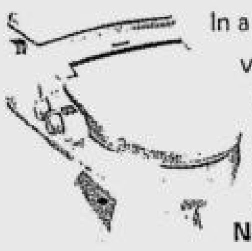

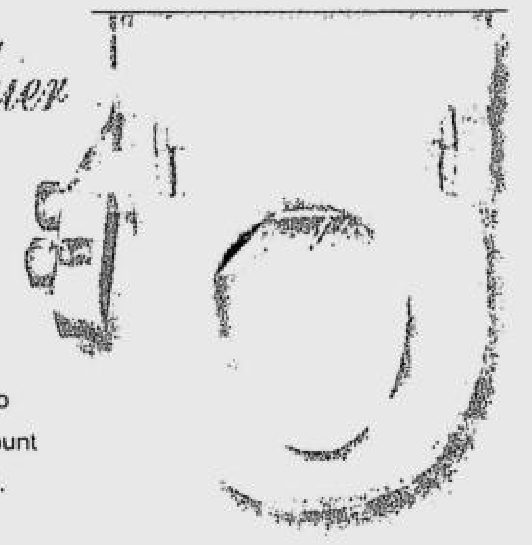

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## RISING DEFICITS ADD TO WOES

# Sluggish global economy dominates EU talks

COPENHAGEN,,Denmark—European Union finance ministers confronted more economic gloom on Friday that will further hamper the euro-zone's biggest nations as they struggle to control their budget deficits.

The EU's top economics official indicated the economy of the 12-nation euro-zone to expand less than one percent this year, less than even the modest 1.4 percent official forecast by the European Commission.

"Recent economic developments point to a somewhat less rosy scenario," said Pedro Solbes, the EU's economic and monetary affairs commissioner. "The average growth rate is now unlikely to exceed one percent."

As the finance ministers began their meeting, French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin admitted his country would not be able to meet its target of 3-percent growth in 2003, a level seen as essential if France is to reduce its budget deficit in line with EU regulations.

"It's true that we're going to have less than 3 percent," Raffarin said on a visit to the eastern French city of Strasbourg. "But look where we're coming from. We're coming from zero growth."

With lower growth squeezing tax revenues, France, Germany and Italy—which together account for about three-quarters of the euro-zone economy—are all struggling to comply with a "stability pact" that forbids member nations from running up deficits over 3 percent of gross domestic product, and commits them to aim for a balanced budget by 2004.

Hoping to meet election pledges on tax.cuts, the Italian government has suggested relaxing the stability pact rules, which hold out the possibility of huge fines against nations that break the 3-percent deficit threshold.

However, others fear diluting the pact would allow sloppy public finances to erode confidence in the euro.

"Instead of trying to weaken these rules, more attention should be paid to preventing them from being fudged by creative accounting," Juergen Stark, vice president of Germany's central bank, the Bundesbank, said at a banking conference in Frankfurt.

Despite Italy's calls for a review of the pact, other nations have agreed any talk of weakening the rules is a no-go—at least until Germany's legislative elections on Sept. 22.

It was at Germany's insistence that the stability pact was introduced to persuade anxious citizens that the euro would be just as reliable as Deutsche mark after the common currency was introduced in 1999.

With two weeks to go before the election, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder does not want to be seen breaking the pact's budget discipline even if his country's deficit runs the risk of exceeding the 3-percent ceiling this year.

Italian Finance Minister Giulio Tremonti acknowledged there had been no talk of altering the rules.

So far, the only one of the 12 euro-zone nations to break the limit has been Portugal which run up a deficit of 4.1 percent of GDP last year.

Under the stability pact, the EU's head office could fine Portugal up to 0.5 percent of its GDP, which would amount to about 613 million euros ($607 million) and cut crucial development aid.

In an effort to avoid such a sanction, Finance Minister Manuela Ferreira Leite pledged her center-right government would push through austerity plans to tackle the economic mess it blames on the previous Socialist administration. **AP**

**FINNISH** vice president of Nokia image service Juha Putkiranta poses, Sept. 6, 2002, in Marseille, holding the new Nokia 3650 video mobile phone.

# Cadillac: the comeback kid?

DETROIT, Michigan—General Motors Corp., which has spent the year touting the comeback of the Cadillac, now thinks it has the figures to prove it.

Nearly 129,000 units were sold in the first eight months of 2002, up 19 percent over August of last year, the automaker said this week.

And though it continues to trail its nearest rival, DaimlerChrysler's Mercedes, by about 7,000 units, the Cadillac is closing the gap, prompting GM's marketing team to crow about "the re-emergence of . . . America's premier, prestige brand."

GM's flagship luxury vehicle has fallen a long way since its glory days in the 1950s, when it was as American as diners and poodle skirts.

The Cadillac rightly billed itself as "the standard of the world" in its early years, at the forefront of design and technology with the development of the first electric starter, electric running lamps, and the first independent front-wheel suspension.

But a succession of poorly executed products, downsized vehicles that were virtually identical to other, less costly GM brands, and the oil crisis of the 1970s, hampered the Caddy's ability to connect with consumers.

A decline in quality, coupled with ill-fated technological breakthroughs such as the V-8-6-4 engine, which could shut off some of its cylinders to reduce fuel consumption, also caused sales to steadily plunge.

Meanwhile, other luxury brands such as Toyota's Lexus and the German-designed BMW and Mercedes, motored ahead.

A revitalized General Motors has committed itself to the Cadillac, injecting $4.5 billion into the line and supporting a fleet of products that are radically different in style from their predecessors.

"If a company like ours can't even get its flagship straight, how is it going to get its other divisions fixed?" GM vice chair and "car czar" Bob Lutz said recently.

Cadillac's renaissance was fueled by the massive Escalade sport utility vehicle, which has become a hot property with Los Angeles sport and show biz types, and the angular CTS sedan, styled along the lines of stealth aircraft.

The new Cadillac XLR, a flashy two-seat roadster showcased at Pebble Beach's Concours d'Elegance last month, hopes to build on that.

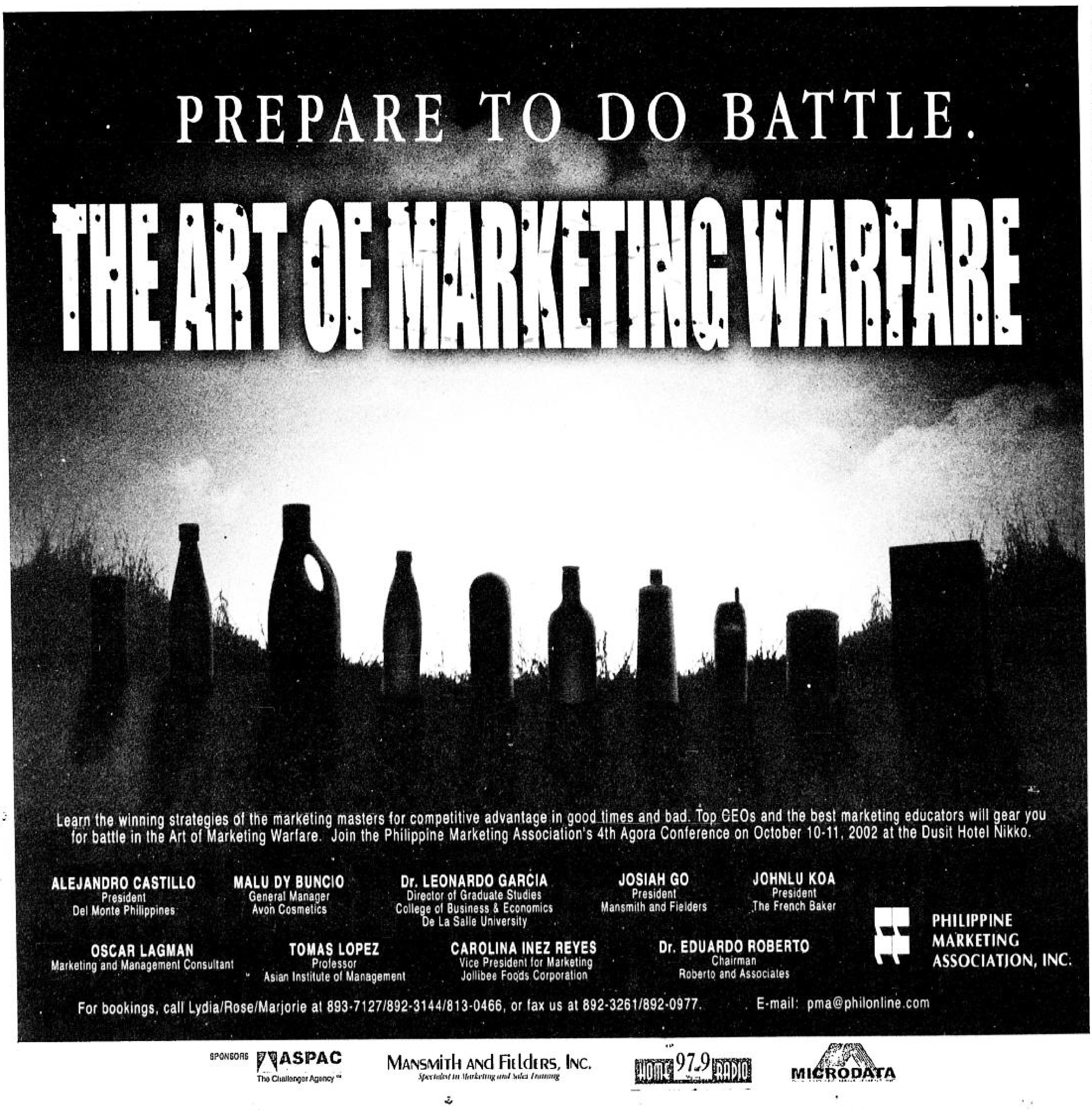
Designed to "look like it was sliced from a single bullet of steel," and the brand's most controversial styling statement since the era of the big-finned '59 Eldorado, the XLR hopes to compete with the Mercedes SL500 roadster.

No easy challenge—but Cadillac general manager, Mark LaNeve, hopes a new emphasis on quality and interior refinement will help.

And with a final price tag likely to be around $70,000, XLR may benefit most from its price advantage over the $86,655-Mercedes.

Cadillac is debating other strategic moves, including whether to move into the crowded "entry-luxury" segment but the growing sentiment "isn't to do $20,000-Cadillacs," says LaNeve.

"The answer is to cover the big segments that we're in and then do $100,000-Cadillacs." Ultimately, he adds, Cadillac's biggest test will be to move ahead with its long-delayed plan to become a true global player. **AFP**



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## Microsoft warns of flaw in software

SAN FRANCISCO—Microsoft Friday continued issuing patches for a "critical" flaw found in a basic software security safeguard affecting most of its popular titles, including most versions of Windows.

According to the software giant, the flaw allows hackers to forge so-called "digital certificates."

These certificates are the basis for identifying a website's identify, the origin of emails and, most importantly, safeguards online credit card information.

"This vulnerability could enable an attacker to craft a digital certificate that, although bogus, would nevertheless be accepted as bona fide," Microsoft said in a security bulletin that's been updated all week.

Microsoft said a range of titles have been affected by the flaw, including most versions of Windows including Windows 98 and versions issued thereafter, and Microsoft browser and email software for the Macintosh computer made by Apple.

"Digital certificates are used for a variety of security-related purposes—for instance, users use them to confirm that websites' identities; to verify who the sender of an email was; whether it's safe to run particular programs, and other purposes—and the ability to forge a seemingly valid certificate could allow a variety of attacks," Microsoft further stated in its security bulletin. **AFP**

### AFTER JOBS DATA

# Analysts expect US Fed to delay rate cuts

NEW YORK—Wall Street's top economists have pushed back expectations for further rate cuts from the Federal Reserve after a slightly stronger than expected employment report for August, a Reuters survey found on Friday.

Fifteen of the 22 primary dealers that trade directly with the Fed expect the central bank to keep rates at the current rate of 1.75 percent through the end of the year and well into next year, when many economists expect the US economic recovery to strengthen.

Three of those surveyed who had expected another cut in borrowing costs at the Fed's policy meeting later this month changed their minds after figures this week showed consumer spending holding up and the labor market generating a modest number of new jobs.

So far this year, the economic recovery has been sluggish and uneven, characterized by growth that is too slow to create a significant number of new jobs and data that are often contradictory.

US economic growth in the third quarter is shaping up to be near 3 percent, fueled by strong consumption and a modest pickup in business equipment spending.

But economists are worried that a stalled manufacturing sector and a slowdown in the massive services sector point to softer growth later in the year.

"The recovery is struggling, but it's not unraveling," said Anthony Karydakis, senior financial economist at Banc One Capital Markets, who no longer expects a rate cut in September and believes the Fed will be on hold till mid-2003.

"There are enough signs of life in this recovery for the Fed to give it the benefit of the doubt."

None of the economists surveyed on Friday expect a rate cut at the Sept. 24 Fed policy meeting, down from four in a similar poll on Aug. 13.

On average, economists said the chance of an easing some time this year fell to 37 percent from 42 percent, and the chance of the economy falling back into recession dropped to 17 percent from 23 percent.

Stocks and bonds rose and the dollar strengthened against the Japanese yen and the euro after the August jobs report earlier on Friday, which showed an unexpected dip in the unemployment rate to 5.7 percent from 5.9 percent in July. A modest 39,000 jobs were created in the month.

The report eased concerns that the economy could tip back into recession, triggering a sell-off in the Eurodollars futures market—a widely watched barometer of interest rate trends. Friday's move suggested expectations for a rate cut by the end of the year have, for now, fallen.

"The final straw (in changing our call) was the employment report," said Ethan Harris, an economist at Lehman Brothers.

Harris said recent economic data was not weak enough to justify a rate cut.

Harris now expects three cuts by the Fed to start in November instead of September.

"The drop in the unemployment rate takes a lot of political pressure off the Fed," he said.

Nevertheless, the jobs data did show the biggest decline in manufacturing jobs since the start of the year. Most of the new jobs created came in temporary and government positions, suggesting firms are still reluctant to take on new workers till worries about the economy dissipate.

Senior Fed officials have said in recent weeks the recovery was still on track and signaled a reluctance to fine-tune growth by saying that interest rates are already low enough to stimulate economic growth.

The benchmark fed funds rate is at a 40-year low, and cheap borrowing costs have fueled demand for housing and autos, where attractive financing deals have driven robust sales in recent months. A new wave of mortgage refinancing has also put more cash into homeowners' pockets.

Testimony next week from Fed Chair Alan Greenspan will likely be in a similar vein to recent Fed comments, economists said.

"We think he'll suggest the Fed sees this recovery as sustainable and growth should continue at a pretty modest pace," said Bear Stearns economist Conrad de Quadros. ***Reuters***

# GE still funds the high life for Jack Welch

NEW YORK—Jack Welch, who retired as chief executive of General Electric Co. last year, is still living large on the company's dime, enjoying freebies such as country club memberships and tickets to New York Knicks basketball games, according to a court filing by his wife in their divorce case.

The exhaustive catalog of expenses GE covers for Welch represents another example of corporate largesse and is likely to fuel investor outrage about lush pay packages for top executives.

The papers also disclosed perks that were showered on Welch and his wife by GE during their 13-year marriage.

GE pitched in more than $7.5 million of the $32.5 million the company spent on houses and furnishings, according to the papers filed by Jane Beasley Welch in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and first reported in the New York Times.

Jack Welch, who earned about $16.1 million in salary and bonuses from GE last year according to regulatory filings, will continue to have free access to the corporate jet.

This perk alone could be worth $3.7 million a year, analysis by an outside aviation consulting group hired by Welch's wife shows.

In addition, the company provides Welch with an apartment adjacent to New York's Central Park that the court papers value at $80,000 per month. GE helps furnish the apartment, gives him GE brand appliances and pays for expenses as routine as groceries, toiletries and postage. The papers did not give a dollar amount for these items.

When Welch travels, the company will pick up the tab for limos and also pays for country club memberships including one at Augusta National, the exclusive club that is home to the US Masters tournament.

The Welches separated earlier this year after public disclosures that he was having an affair with the editor of the Harvard Business Review.

Welch has been providing his wife with $35,000 a month, an amount she accepts "under protest," according to the filing.

"Such funds are patently inadequate to maintain the marital standard of living," the filing reads.

Executive compensation has become a hot topic. Dennis Kozlowski, the ex-CEO of conglomerate Tyco International Ltd., who has been indicted in New York for sales tax avoidance, received $135 million in company loans to fund a lavish lifestyle, according to published reports. ***Reuters***

# SIA in talks with new Aussie carrier

SINGAPORE—Singapore Airlines (SIA) is in talks with an Australian domestic airline, a report here said Saturday, fueling speculation that the Singapore carrier was actively seeking a slice of Australian domestic travel.

Discussions on an "interline" agreement with SIA began about a fortnight ago, Armon Hicks, a spokesperson for Australia's newest airline Regional Express (Rex) told the Straits Times.

The deal, if it goes through, would allow passengers landing at any of the five Australian cities now served by SIA to go on to 31 other destinations in the country without having to check in their bags again or make separate bookings.

An SIA spokesperson treated the latest talk of an Australian venture the same as recent market rumors, saying the airline will "rule nothing in or out. We are leaving our options open with regards to the Australian domestic market."

Among various market rumors has been a suggestion that SIA was considering a proposal to revive Australia's collapsed Ansett airline.

Sydney Airports Corp. Ltd. spokesperson Peter Gibbs told reporters that an SIA evaluation team had inspected the former Ansett terminal at Sydney Airport.

But Ansett lawyer Leon Zwier said this week that there had been no discussion with Singapore Airlines.

"We're not sitting down to talks . . . we're not doing deals with Ansett names or parts, although if they want to talk to us they would be welcome." ***AFP***

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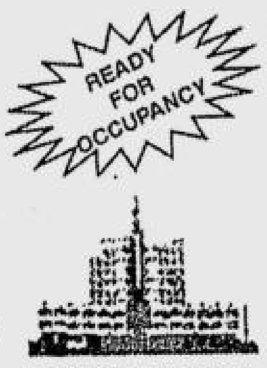

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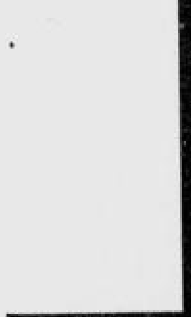

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Republic of the Philippines
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**
Office of the Secretary
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1100 Philippines

**MEMORANDUM ORDER NO. 7**
Series of 2002
29 July 2002

## SUBJECT: HACCP AUDIT OF MEAT AND MILK EXPORTING PLANTS

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Agriculture (DA) requires the accreditation of meat exporters before being allowed to ship products to the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, this is consistent with the DA mandate to ensure the safety and quality of imported livestock and poultry products and in the interest of public health and as required under the Consumer Act of the Philippines;

**WHEREAS**, Section IV of AO 56 Series of 2000, otherwise known as amendment to Administrative Order No. 39, Series of 2000, provides that existing foreign meat exporters shall be considered accredited unless the DA revokes the accreditation upon review.

**WHEREAS**, there had been many documented cases of contaminated milk and meat products being brought into the country, indicating the need to supplement the accreditation mechanism with periodic audit of the exporting plants to further ensure safety and quality.

**WHEREAS**, exporters of milk and milk products are, at present, not subjected to accreditation nor to audit but are allowed to export on the basis of certification issued by the relevant Veterinary Authority of the exporting country.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR**, Secretary of Agriculture, do hereby issue this Order requiring the audit of all exporters of milk, meat and their products in terms of their compliance to internationally recognized standards in Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) program. This requirement is in addition to those already provided for in relevant orders concerning importation of milk and meat products.

An independent certifying body on a quaterly basis shall do the audit. The accreditation of the certifying body (ies) shall be done through international bidding. Furthermore, the cost of the audit shall be borne by the exporting plant.

A Committee chaired by the Executive Director of the Livestock Development Council, with members from the National Meat Inspection Commission, the Bureau of Animal Industry and the National Dairy Authority, shall formulate the detailed guidelines for its implementation.

This Order shall take effect 30 days from its publication in two newspapers of general circulation.

Leonardo Q. Montemayor
**LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR**
*Secretary*

---

Republic of the Philippines
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**
Office of the Secretary
Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1100 Philippines

## IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES FOR DA-MO NO. 7
## THE HACCP AUDIT OF MEAT AND MILK EXPORTING PLANTS

On 29 July 2002, the Department of Agriculture (DA) issued Memorandum Order (MO) No. 7 mandating the conduct of Hazard Analysis of Critical Control Points (HACCP) audit of all meat and milk plants exporting products to the Philippines by third party auditors/inspectors.

The MO was issued to further ensure compliance of exporting foreign meat/milk plants (EFMP) to the Philippines' food safety and quality standards for imported meat and milk products particularly in the light of many documented cases of contaminated products coming into the country;

The audit shall be in addition to present requirements for imports of meat and meat products and milk and milk products as provided for in Administrative Orders No. 36 as amended by AO 56 series of 2000 and the Consumer Act of the Philippines.

To implement the provisions of MO 7, specifically the conduct of the audit, these guidelines are issued for compliance by all concerned.

### SECTION I. COVERED EFMPs FOR THE AUDIT

a) All accredited meat plants that were subjected to the on-site inspection for accreditation by the DA.

b) Meat plants accredited through bilateral agreements and/or unilateral/mutual recognition arrangements, without the benefit of on-site inspection of the DA for accreditation, shall be limited to cover only those with record of last exportation of meat and/or meat products into the Philippines within one (1) year prior to the effectivity of these guidelines.

c) In the case of milk plants, where no accreditation system is in place, the Audit shall be conducted in all the plants, which are currently exporting products to the Philippines. Within a year from the issuance of this order, a system for the accreditation of dairy plants should be in-place, after which, only accredited plants subject to the audit, shall be allowed to export to the Philippines.

### SECTION II. THE AUDIT

a) Regardless of the accreditation of any EFMP, except where its accreditation was suspended, the Audit shall be undertaken by the concerned DA accredited auditor/inspector every three (3) months. The Audit shall be subject to the following to ensure compliance to Philippine food safety and quality standards:
    1) Conduct an audit/inspection based on the "Checklist for the HACCP Audit of Meat and Milk Products", attached herewith as Annex A.
    2) For slaughter houses, shall be subject to the "Evaluation Criteria for the Audit of Slaughter Houses", attached herewith as Annex B.1
    3) For poultry dressing plants, shall be subject to the "Evaluation Criteria for the Audit of Poultry Dressing Plants", attached herewith as Annex B.2
    4) For meat processing plants, shall be subject to the "Evaluation Criteria for the Audit of Meat Processing Plants", attached herewith as Annex B.3
    5) For milk plants, shall be subject to the "Evaluation Criteria for the Audit of Milk Processing Plant", attached herewith as Annex C.

b) During the Audit, the concerned plants are required to provide full cooperation and assistance including the provision of relevant records to its concerned auditor/inspector to expedite the conduct of the audit.

c) The meat and/or milk Exporting Plant shall bear the cost of the Audit

### SECTION III. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AUDIT ORGANIZATION

a) Only independent, third party auditing organizations shall be accredited by the Secretary of Agriculture and will be deputized to conduct the Audit.

b) Any interested third party auditors/inspectors should have the following minimum qualifications:
    1) A juridical person with a verifiable record in international/cross border verification and inspection/auditing work;
    2) Have its own permanent offices/laboratories/facilities in the country where the EFMPs are located;
    3) A member in good standing of the International Federation of Inspection Agencies (IFIA);
    4) With a minimum of two (2) years experience in HACCP-based auditing/inspection/certification of meat and/or milk establishments;
    5) Compliance to the International Accreditation Forum's (IAF) "General Requirements for Bodies Operating Assessment and Certification of Supplies/Quality Systems" (ISO/IEC Guide 62);
    6) With minimum two (2) years experience in food safety/quality assurance certification of meat and/or milk plants.
    7) Should be an operating and a bona fide and duly registered Philippine company or have an affiliate or subsidiary that is also an operating and a bona fide and registered Philippine company.
    8) Should be willing to file a surety bond of P20 million to be issued by a Philippine insurer/bonding company acceptable to the Secretary of Agriculture to answer for claims arising from malfeasance or non-feasance of the audit.

### SECTION IV. IDENTIFICATION AND SELECTION OF THE AUDIT ORGANIZATION

a) The DA shall circulate through the different foreign embassies/missions, the invitation to accredit services of Audit firms. The invitation shall enumerate the (a) qualification of the Audit firm and (b) the schedules and how the Audit is proposed to be undertaken.

b) The DA invitation shall likewise be published in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

c) Any interested audit firm shall express their intention to provide the service and submit the requirements referred to in item (b) Section III to the DA Evaluation and Selection Committee (DAESC) supervised by the Office of the Undersecretary for Livestock and Fisheries. The Terms of Reference (TOR) of the DAESC shall be issued 15 days after the issuance of these guidelines.

The intention to provide the service must be submitted within thirty (30) days from the publication of the invitation to provide the audit.

d) The Department of Agriculture shall consolidate and evaluate all the submissions, from which a list of accredited audit companies will be prepared.

e) The selected audit firms shall be notified by DA and the list of the accredited firms shall be published in two newspapers of general circulation.

### SECTION V. INVITATION OF THE AUDIT

a) Upon publication of the list of DA accredited auditors/inspectors, these firms should offer their services to any EFMP referred to in Section 1 where they operate. Likewise the EFMP are mandated to secure the services of any DA accredited auditor/inspector. Upon the entry into auditing contract between the EFMP and the auditor/inspector, they must jointly endorse the said contract to the DA for the initiation of the audit.

b) Within fifteen (15) days of the conduct of the audit, the DA accredited auditor/inspector should provide the DA its auditing report.

### SECTION VI. PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS

a) Any EFMP subjected to the Audit and subsequently fails the same would have its accreditation and exports suspended until improvements have been made to comply with the Audit standards and requirements prescribed herein.

b) Any DA accredited third party auditor/inspector found to be not complying with the provisions in Section II of these guidelines shall have its accreditation revoked.

c) Any accredited third party auditor/inspector found to be not compliant to the IFIA requirements and its membership/status to it has been suspended/revoked shall automatically be delisted from the DA accredited auditors/inspectors list.

d) Any DA accredited third party auditor/inspector whose status in the IFIA has been questioned (through the IFIA process) that comprises its credibility as independent auditor/inspector, a temporary suspension of its auditing work for the DA shall be imposed until the final IFIA findings has been released maintaining its membership in good standing.

### SECTION VII. EFFECTIVITY

a) By 01 January 2003 only those EFMPs that passed the Audit shall be the sources of imported meat and meat products and milk and milk products. As such, this becomes an additional basis of the Bureau of Animal Industry in the issuance of the VQC.

b) These guidelines shall take effect 30 days from its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

**ISSUED BY:**

Leonardo Q. Montemayor
**LEONARDO Q. MONTEMAYOR**
*Secretary*

Note: Annexes available upon request.

(PDI - Sept 9 2002)

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# NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE is hereby given that the following **LIBERTY FLOUR MILLS, INC.** stock certificates have been declared lost:

| Stock Certificate No. | No. of Shares |
|---|---|
| 8846 | 141,317 |
| 8847 | 15,737 |
| 9285 | 33,314 |
| 9738 | 47,592 |
| 10282 | 95,184 |
| 10782 | 47,591 |
| 11398 | 142,775 |
| 12128 | 52,351 |
| 12786 | 115,172 |
| 13645 | 70,435 |

pursuant to an affidavit of lost submitted by the registered owner of the above-mentioned stock certificates, EKI Tourist Development Corporation, dated 20 June 2002.

By:

**THE CORPORATE SECRETARY**
Liberty Flour Mills, Inc.

(PDI - Aug. 26, Sept. 2 & 9, 2002)

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INQUIRER
# TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

## The Great Beyond

***Q.*** How big is the Universe?

***A.*** It's hard to imagine the size of the Universe. Our own Solar System seems extremely large, extending more than 4 trillion miles out from the Sun. But the Sun is only one of hundreds of billions of other stars that make up our galaxy, the Milky Way. Within the Milky Way, distances are vast: Trillions of empty miles separate each star (or pair of stars) from the next. (Scientists speculate that most, if not all, stars may also have orbiting planets). But vast as it is (some 100,000 light-years across, a light-year being equal to 6 trillion miles), our galaxy is just an island in a sea of space. There are hundreds of billions of other galaxies strewn across the expanding fabric of space; the Universe measures billions of light-years across. Traveling at its normal 186,000 miles a second, it takes light from the most distant stars more than 10 billion years to cross the lonely dark expanses to us.

**Imagine That.** Some of the molecules associated with life as we know it have already been found in outer space. One of them is alcohol. Astronomers have calculated that a huge cloud in the constellation Sagittarius contains enough ethyl alcohol to make $10^{28}$ (10,000 million million million million) bottles of whisky.

***Past Forward.*** This day in 1878: Birth in Cebu City of Sergio Osmeña, Sr., speaker of the first Philippine Assembly, founder of the Nacionalista Party, and second president of the Philippine Commonwealth.

**WORD WATCH**

**Legislate** (lej'is layt) : from the Latin *Legis* ('law') + *latio* ('a proposing').

PDI – Sept. 9, 2002

---

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|---|---|---|---|
| PB020923-PDAC1258 | SPAREPARTS FOR SEAWATER COOLING PUMP "TEIKOKU" | SEPT. 23, 2002 | 10:00 AM |
| PB020826-PDAC1214 (PB2) | PARTS FOR TURBO CHARGER NIIGATA TYPE NHP 50D | SEPT. 23, 2002 | 2:00 PM |

Bidding documents will be available to qualified interested parties starting **SEPTEMBER 10, 2002** upon payment of **P100.00 per schedule**, which is non-refundable and upon presentation of company I.D., and company authorization. Issuance and receipts of documents are done every morning between 8:00 to 11:30 AM only at the above address.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT SERVICES SECTION
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION
PSD-SPUG

(PDI – Sept. 9, 2002)

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## DR. CARMEN CAMPOS ZITA

Widow of **Engr. Tomas Turla Zita** (†)

**May 9, 1902 - September 7, 2002**
**Bauang, La Union - Pasig City**

*Our beloved Mama passed away peacefully*
*at the age of 100. She had dedicated her life to us.*
*In good times and in bad times,*
*she was our constant source of strength.*

In deep gratitude **Alegria Campos Zita, Bella & Jose Mabanta, Carmen & Fred Gozum, Lucia & Doming Cepeda, Milagros & Drix Rodriguez, Rosario & Steve Agular, Zenaida & Dieter Reichert**, and **Tom & Kathy Zita**.

With 20 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren, and her two living sisters **Felicula C. Gatmaitan** and **Julita C. Benedicto** request your prayers.

Her remains lie in state at Capilla San Francisco Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 10, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass of the Resurrection.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Dr. Jose P. Rizal Memorial Foundation, Inc. will be appreciated.

---

*"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened,*
*And I will give your rest."*
*Matthew 11:28*

## Carmelita Llana De Guzman

**of Batangas City and Cabanatuan City**

*was called home to the Lord*
*on Saturday, September 7, 2002.*

Her loving husband **Dr. Francisco De Guzman**; and her children **Ma. Annette** and **Jeremias Bautista**, **Rosalynn** and **Leonides Papa**, **Aurelia** and **Rufino Eslao**, **Rufino Regino** and **Dinah De Guzman**; her grandchildren **Andrea, Bianca**, and **Cody, Beatrice Francine, Alexis, Ciara** and **Ron-ron, Paolo** and **Ina**; and other relatives and friends request you to pray for her eternal journey with our Lord.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence at Melencio Street, Cabanatuan City.

Cremation is scheduled at 8:30 a.m. in the Eternal Garden Compound in Dagupan City on Wednesday, September 11, 2002. The funeral Mass for the repose of her soul will follow at the New Cathedral in Lakewood, Cabanatuan City at 4:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the New Cathedral will be appreciated.

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**I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**
**John 14:6**

---

*You changed my mourning into dancing*
*you took off my sack cloth*
*and clothed me with gladness*
*With my whole being I sing*
*endless praise to you.*
*O Lord, my God,*
*forever will I give you thanks.*
Psalm 30:12-13

## EUGENIO RAMON ELEAZAR UNSON

September 6, 1924 - September 7, 2002

*Peacefully joined his wife **Estrella de Veyra-Unson** (†)*
*in our Lord's loving embrace at the age of 78.*

He is survived by his children **Elsa, Elvi & Art Zuñiga, Elma & Felipe Santillan Jr., Ellen & Conrado Viriña, Eleonor & Arthur Yabut, Edgar**, and **Edward & Marge Sanchez**; his brother and sisters, grandchildren.

The family requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains are at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Doña Juana S. Rodriguez, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment of ashes will be on Tuesday, September 10, 2002.

---

*"As for me, I would seek God,*
*and to God I would commit my cause."*
Job 5:8

Forever in our hearts...
We remember our beloved

## ATTY. JOSE "PEPE/JOE" SANTIAGO ATIENZA

**Knight of the Pontifical Order of St. Sylvestre**

*who joined his Maker on 10 September 1998.*

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated tomorrow in the following churches:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Christ the King Parish Church**, Greenmeadows, Quezon City | 6:00 AM<br>7:00 AM<br>6:00 PM |
| **Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Church**, Welfareville, Mandaluyong City | 6:00 AM |
| **St. Peter Parish Church**, Apalit, Pampanga | 6:00 AM |
| **Villa San Miguel Chapel**, Mandaluyong City | 6:15 AM |
| **Santuario de San Jose**, Greenhills, Mandaluyong | 6:15 AM |
| **Divina Pastora National Shrine**, San Vicente, Gapan City, Nueva Ecija | 5:00 PM |

and at his gravesite at the Garden of Angels, Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque at 9:00 AM.

His wife **Esther M. Cuenlo**; children/in-laws **Paz, Jun & Rae, Manny & Rona**, and **Mike**; and grandchildren **Jella, Julianne, Justinne, Lyka, Mico**, and **Tricia** request relatives, friends and pious readers to always remember **PEPE** in their prayers.

---

*"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened,*
*and I will give you rest."*
*Matthew 11:28*

## Fe Arzadon Palafox

of Baduc, Ilocos Norte
March 02, 1916 - September 6, 2002

Her remains lie in state at #12 Pres. Osmeña Street, IVC, Marikina City.

Cremation will be on Sept. 10, 2002, 2:00 p.m. at La Funeraria Paz Crematory after 10:00 a.m. Mass at IVC Chapel.

---

*An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.*

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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*"Even when I walk through a dark valley,*
*I feel no harm. For you are at my side,*
*your rod and staff give me courage..."* Psalm 23:4

## Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

## Amparo Domínguez Zamora

who joined our Lord and Creator
on September 1, 2002

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

---

*"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."* Psalm 23:6

Our Dearly Beloved Tatay

## PEDRO MENDOZA PALAFOX

November 24, 1923 - September 6, 2002

of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte and GSIS Village, Quezon City

Wife Fidela; children Sonny, Ato, Nestor, Adeth and Zeny; brothers and sisters Andrea (†), Sylvia (†), Jose (†), Magdalena, Jesus, Manuel, Estela, Myrna and Antonio (†).

His remains lie in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Forest Park Memorial, Camarin, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Funeral Mass, Thursday, September 12, 2002.

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## In Loving Memory

On the **First Death Anniversary** of

## Evelyn "Len" L. Hernandez-Banday

*who peacefully joined her Creator*
*on September 9, 2001.*

It is hard to believe that **Len** is no longer with us. But in a way, she will never leave us. Her place in our hearts and minds will never be filled. Yet, in the pain of the moment, none of us would trade places with those whose lives were never touched by our beloved Len.

Her family, loved ones and friends request you to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

A Holy Mass shall be offered today at the Manila Memorial Park (Parañaque), Memory Court V at 3:00 p.m.

---

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# INFOTECH

Editor **Leo Magno**

# Defendant in hacking case pleads 'not guilty'

**By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva**

CAESAR Mañalac, a former employee of a local business school accused of hacking, entered a plea of "not guilty" Monday.

Judge Elvira Panganiban of the Metropolitan Trial Court of Branch 58 has subsequently scheduled a pre-trial conference of the "People of the Philippines versus Caesar Mañalac" (Criminal Case No. 78133-34) on Nov. 25.

Mañalac was arrested last year after a year-long investigation by the National Bureau of Investigation's Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division.

During the arraignment, INQ7.net learned that Thames lawyers have requested the court to "issue a warrant of arrest and cancellation of Mañalac's bail bond" when Mañalac failed to appear during the arraignment.

Mañalac was late for his arraignment set for 8:30 a.m.

"The arraignment began at around 9:30 a.m.," lawyer Charlton Romero told INQ7.net. Judge Panganiban granted the prosecution's request.

But when the private prosecutors had left the courtroom, Mañalac and his lawyer arrived and entered a plea of "not guilty."

Romero said that a San Juan public prosecutor represented Thames in their absence.

At least 20 cases were being heard that day at MTC Branch 58 of San Juan, and Mañalac's case was third on the list, Romero noted.

"It was a bit unfair because the interest of the private prosecutors were not represented when Mañalac entered his plea," added the prosecution lawyer who was informed through a text message late Monday about the non-guilty plea.

"All our motions entered into court were subsequently rendered 'moot and academic'," Romero said.

Mañalac is the former information technology support head of Thames International Business School in San Juan, Metro Manila—a school run by the daughter of tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan.

He was arrested on May 2, but posted a bail bond on that same day.

Mañalac's arraignment was scheduled last July but was suspended when the San Juan MTC announced a "semestral inventory," thereby moving the schedule to Sept. 2.

A computer science graduate and former dean of the Computer Science division of the Angeles University Foundation, Mañalac was arrested on May 3.

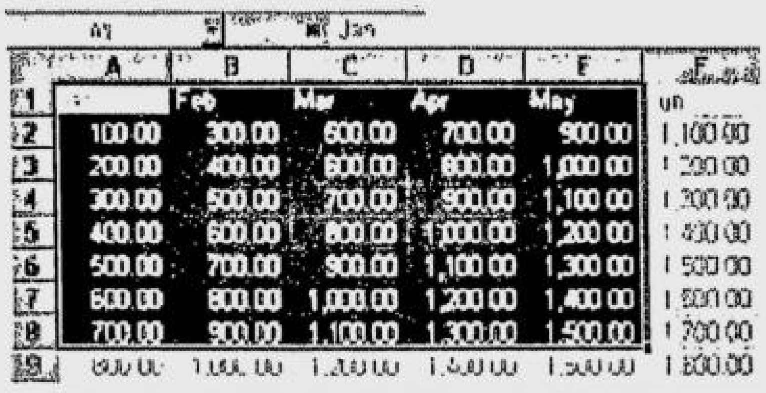
Mañalac is the first Filipino charged with a violation of the E-commerce Law, which penalizes activities such as hacking.

If convicted, he faces a minimum fine of P100,000 and "a maximum commensurate to the damage incurred by the plaintiff," and imprisonment of six months to three years, according to the law.

According to the NBI's investigation, Mañalac had allegedly accessed the system/network of the school illegally for the purpose of copying confidential files of Thames, and then selling them to foreign financers.

Thames is an international business school with operations in different countries including the Philippines. It offers two-year undergraduate programs validated by a body of the University of Cambridge.

The school was established in 2000.



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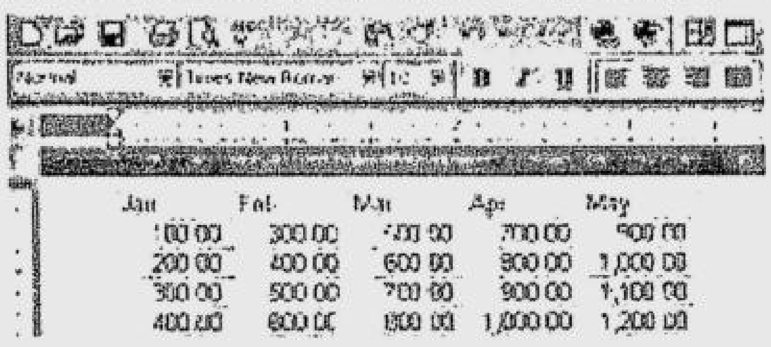

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## Taking a snapshot of your Windows Excel worksheet

**By Jerry Liao**

### POWERTIPS

IF you want to create a picture of your worksheet or part of your worksheet, what you normally do is press your PrtScrn key and then crop it then paste it to another application. Here's an easier way of doing it:

1) Open your Excel worksheet.

2) Highlight the cells you want to include in your picture.

3) Hold down the Shift key and click the Edit command.

4) Select Copy Picture. The Copy Picture dialog box will be displayed.

5) Under Appearance, choose As Shown On Screen. Under Format, choose Bitmap then click OK.

6) Open the application where you want to paste your captured Excel picture then click Paste.

**For more tips, visit http://www.brainshare. com.ph**

# Smart exports m-commerce applications

**By Abigail L. Ho**

SMART Communications Inc. expects a considerable revenue boost with the exportation of its mobile commerce platform to countries in Asia and Europe.

Smart Money Holdings Corp. (SMHC), Smart's mobile commerce arm, has successfully exported its m-commerce platform to Telecom Malaysia and is now in "serious talks" with three or four telecommunications players in Asia.

Smart's president and chief executive Napoleon Nazareno said in an interview that SMHC had also gotten interest from some carriers in Europe.

"We're in discussions with a number of players in the Asean and greater Asia regions. European carriers have shown interest in our m-commerce platform, especially after we won the GSM Award in Cannes," he said.

The deal with Telecom Malaysia was signed on Aug. 16 in Kuala Lumpur, but Nazareno said SMHC had already been installing the m-commerce system in the firm's cellular subsidiary, TM Touch, for around six to eight months already before the signing.

He explained that the formal signing of the deal with TM coincided with its m-commerce service's soft launch.

He added that full commercial launch of the service would take place in the second week of September as the new m-commerce system was almost completely installed in TM Touch's network and connected with its partner-banks for the mobile banking function and to Mastercard Electronic for the electronic wallet service.

Under the deal, SMHC installed the m-commerce platform in TM Touch's system for a one-time fee plus variable fees or a certain revenue share per transaction, he said.

Smart's public affairs head Ramon Isberto said this scheme would have a direct positive impact on Smart's bottomline as a huge chunk of the revenues from SMHC would go directly to it.

"We already have the technology. We just need to invest on marketing the product abroad, so a large part of our revenues from exporting the technology will go straight to the bottomline," he explained.

He added that around 20 percent of transactions in Malaysia were done electronically, mostly using credit cards, so m-commerce services were expected to become quite popular in that country.

Not only would the deal with TM boost Smart's revenues, the exportation of technology was also a first for a Philippine telecommunications company.

"Now, a Philippine telco is selling a technology to another country and not the other way around," Isberto said.

In the Philippines, electronic wallet Smart Money and Smart's mobile banking service are some of the cellular service provider's killer applications.

# Sony-Ericsson focuses on content, applications

**By Joel D. Pinaroc**

RECOGNIZING the need to beef up its business strategy in an effort to get the lion's share in the mobile communications market, Sony-Ericsson, the mega merger of entertainment giant Sony Corp. and wireless company Ericsson, has announced that it will focus on content and seek applications developers around the globe for its forthcoming, next-generation mobile telephone/personal digital assistant hybrid.

Executives of the wireless company's Philippine office disclosed that aside from the content the company is expected to get out of the entertainment business of Sony, it will also form partnerships with companies or individuals to develop applications for Sony-Ericsson products that will utilize newer, more powerful communications technology such as GPRS or general packet radio service, 3G or third generation wireless technology and Bluetooth.

"Right now, we have already pre-bundled our next-generation phones with content from Sony Entertainment. What we'll do next is look for partners who will develop applications for us," said Dennis Manzano, Sony-Ericsson Philippines general manager.

Manzano said the global search has started and that some developers, both here and abroad have already expressed interest in partnering with Sony-Ericsson.

The search, officially called the Sony-Ericsson Developer World program, will end on Oct. 31, 2002.

"We want to have applications and content for both professional and entertainment purposes for Sony-Ericsson," Manzano said.

Manzano said Sony-Ericsson is particularly looking for developers for its P800 Smartphone, the PDA and mobile phone hybrid announced early this year and set for launch toward the end of the year.

According to Sony-Ericsson, the P800, running on the Symbian operating system, will become the "most advanced among the MMS (multimedia messaging service)-capable product lines from Sony-Ericsson."

Aside from MMS, the P800 has a built-in camera, 16MB memory (in memory stick form), which can be expanded up to 28MB, a built-in MP3 player and video playback capabilities.

The large, color, touch-screen display is partly hidden by the flip-type keypad, making the "transition" from phone to PDA simple.

Content for the P800 come from existing partners of Sony-Ericsson, including game makers THQ, Astromash, WWE Mobile Mania, Eurosports and Marvel Comics.

Content from these partners will not be limited to the P800, as versions for new Sony-Ericsson mobile phones, will also be developed.

Sony-Ericsson's efforts are directed toward getting more market share in the Philippine market, which, according to company executives, continue to increase.

In brand-to-brand comparison, Finnish company Nokia leads other phone manufacturers in terms of user base, although some wireless players have deployed aggressive strategies.

Sony-Ericsson, being one of them, will also target the so-called "replacement" market in the Philippines.

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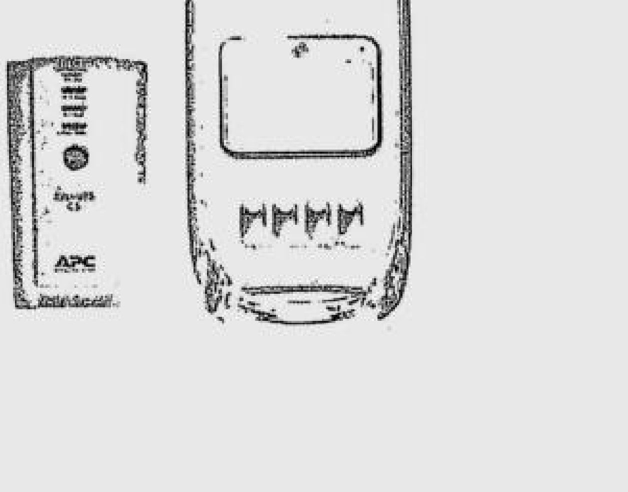
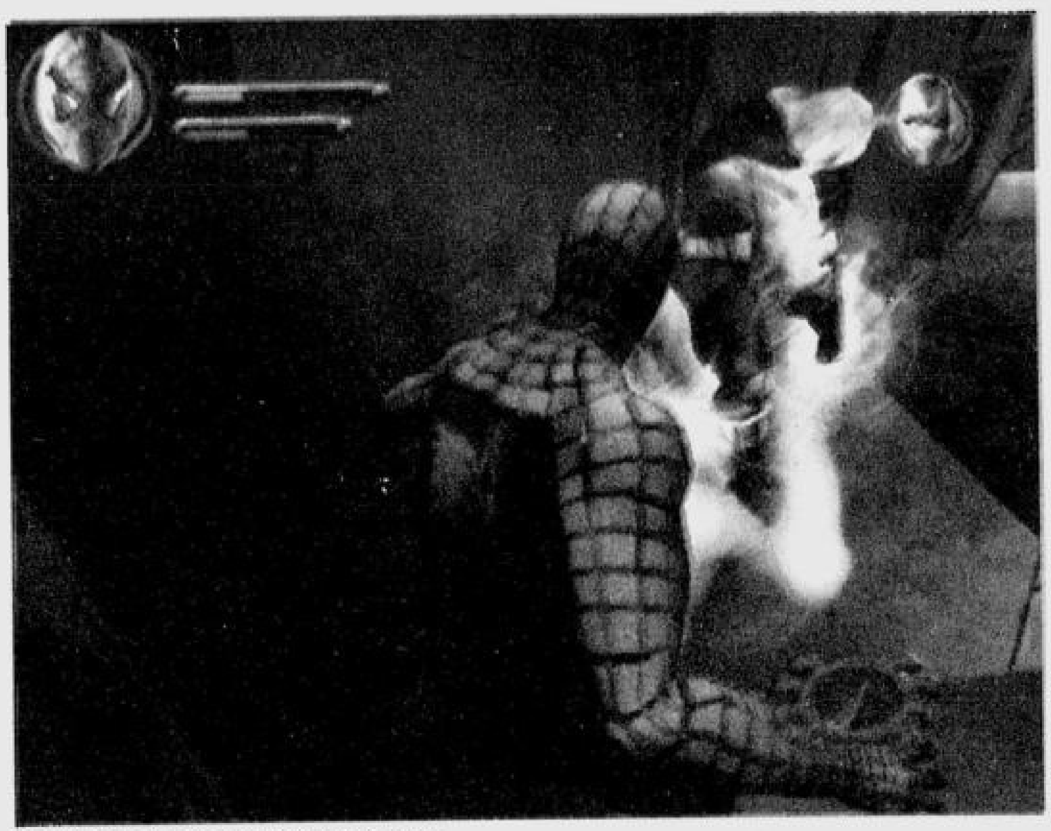


Spiderman won't keep you up at night and excite you and challenge you to a point that you want to finish it



SPIDERMAN squares off with Shocker

# The 'webslinger' fails to weave wonders

By Leo Magno

THE CASH registers have stopped ringing at the box office, and the hype that was Spiderman the Movie, has passed along with this year's summer blockbusters.

So, too, did the videogame based on the film. And while the movie may linger in the memories of Spiderman fans worldwide, the game most probably will not. For all its good technical points, there's an equivalent downside which relegates the Spiderman videogame to the "Average" category.

Spiderman was released simultaneously on four platforms: the PC, the GameCube, the Xbox and the PS2. It was developed by Treyarch and published by Activision. I played the Xbox version, which has an exclusive level where you get to fight Kraven.

I've actually had this game for a while now but it wasn't exciting enough for me to finish it in a rush.

XBOX

We review this game on the XBox

First off, this game has the worst camera angles I've seen in any game thus far. It has an active and passive camera mode which you can choose at the opening menu, but neither will let you play the game effectively. It also has a "Camera Lock" mode which locks on to enemies. This gets really irritating especially since it gets activated automatically depending on the enemy (usually the flying ones like the Green Goblin, Vulture and the razor bats), but you can disable it by pressing the black button on the Xbox. But then again the game will automatically go back to Camera Lock mode so you'll have to toggle again and again while fighting. You can adjust the camera angle using the right thumbstick, but this won't help you much.

The poor camera work on Spiderman becomes painfully more evident after having played Eternal Darkness on the GameCube.

I've just finished ED twice, and its dynamic camera system follows the character, zooms in and out and pans around at the precise angle. After ED I decided to finish Spiderman, so it was like falling down from heaven to hell as far as camera work is concerned.

You can control Spidey using either the left thumbstick or the D-Pad, again as an option in the opening menu. However, while webslinging you'll discover that Spidey is difficult to control, especially when you're made to chase enemies like Vulture and the Green Goblin. You'll have to swing through tight building corners, and more often than not you'll end up sticking to the side of the building when you hit it, and so Vulture or the Goblin would just leave you eating dust.

Even when Spidey's on the ground during interiors levels, sometimes you'll end up sticking to a wall when you run up to one.

This is especially true when you're running inside an airshaft which has many left, right, up and down turns. You end up sticking to a wall, the camera angle will shift, and then you lose orientation and forget where the hell it was you're going. It gets so frustrating. Somebody has to remind Spiderman that he has no right to drive gamers crazy by sticking to walls like that. But then again he's a "spider-man" so I guess he has a license to do that.

The game's exterior levels have nice, clean graphics and Spidey's movements—especially when webslinging—are fluid. However, Treyarch did not capitalize on this strength and instead focused on a lot of indoor levels. Webslinging is actually cool, save for the tight corners you have to maneuver Spiderman into. But most of the levels are indoors. The best action levels are the ones outdoors—the ones with Vulture and the Green Goblin. However, Spidey appears like he's not webslinging from buildings—instead he looks like he's hanging from a web straight up from the sky.

Goblin is hard to defeat because he's fast and his glider and pumpkin bombs can drive you crazy. Even when you unseat him from his glider he's still fast when you square off with him mano-a-mano. I had to repeat the last boss battle with Goblin—the one on the bridge—five times before I finally finished him off. This brings us to the ending sequence of the game. The last cutscene—with Goblin being hit by his glider as soon as Spidey does a backflip to avoid it—has Mary Jane kissing Tiger for a happy, boy-saves-girl kind of ending. But I have to protest at this point—Kirsten Dunst's breasts aren't THAT big!

The game is loosely based on the plot of the movie, but Treyarch and Activision had to inject more enemies into the game because fighting Goblin throughout the game can be repetitive. That's why you'll also face off with Shocker, Scorpion, Kraven and Vulture (all of them are easy except for Vulture). Some levels will also have you taking pictures while webslinging, avoiding detection, saving MJ (twice), deactivating bombs under time pressure, taking out shield detectors on the super mech and fighting OsCorp's slow but huge ultimate weapon, fighring off thugs, destroying Goblin's razor bats and facing super soldiers at Oscorp.

Tobey Maguire actually did the voice characterization for Spidey, and Willem Dafoe did the voice for Goblin. Maguire's voice acting was pathetic, but Dafoe's was good. Bruce Campbell was the voice behind the first-level tutorials. Small wonder, since Bruce Campbell is a friend of Sam Raimi, director of "Spiderman the Movie" and other Campbell starrers like "The Evil Dead" series.

So what's the verdict on Spiderman? I'm a Marvel fan, and I enjoyed webslinging around buildings and crawling around as Spidey in this game. But the camera work sucks, and the action is a bit lacking. Some levels pose no challenge at all. Graphics-wise, the detail in this game is good. Gameplay-wise, it would get just a passing grade. Camera- and control-wise, this game is an utter failure.

Spiderman won't keep you up at night and excite you and challenge you to a point that you want to finish it. I was halfway trough Spiderman when I stopped playing it, then picked it up again just so I could finish it for this review. For me, this game just makes it to the bottom rung of the "Average" level, or 5 out of 10. It's not worth your $50.

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# Siemens' Java,GPRS mobile phone

**By Jerry Liao**

LET'S take a look at the Siemens M50.

### Strengths

1) Dual-band phone with GPRS, WAP and Java

2) Measures 109 x 46 x 23 mm, weighs 97 g with battery, 5 lines of text

3) Changeable CLIPit Covers, supports SMS and EMS, calling images, magic button features

4) ICQ mobile instant messaging application, games, PDA/PIM features

### Weaknesses

1) Back cover is made of plastic that makes it look so fragile.

2) For a phone that has the capability to download java apps and games, a color display is more appropriate.

3) No infrared port or Bluetooth, so you still need a data cable.

**THE BOTTOM LINE**

### The bottom line

The Siemens M50 is an affordable Java and GPRS enabled phone. Great for people who need to have Internet access while on the go. But for gaming, a bigger screen and a color display will be a welcome treat.

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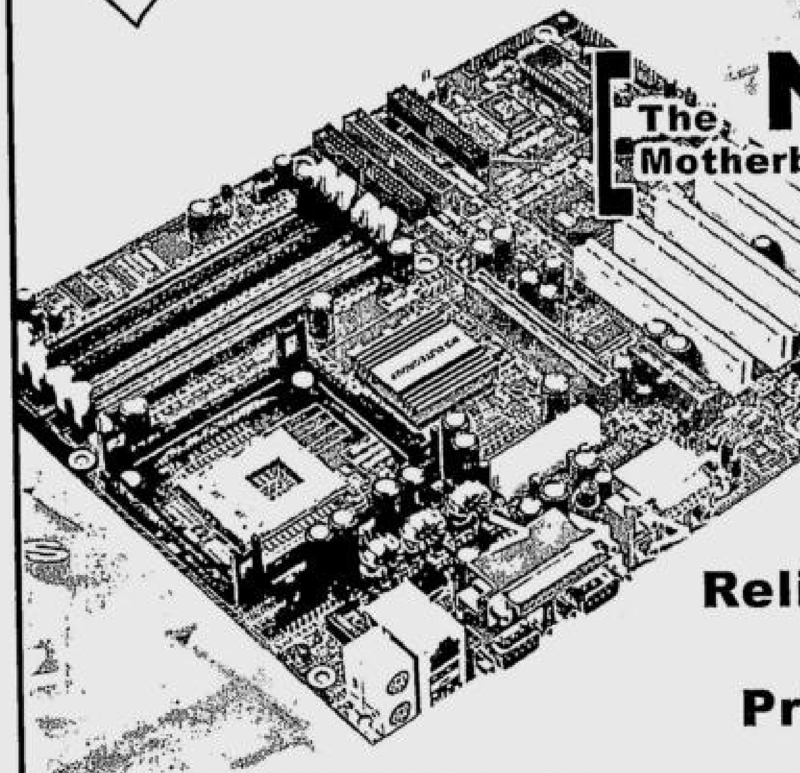

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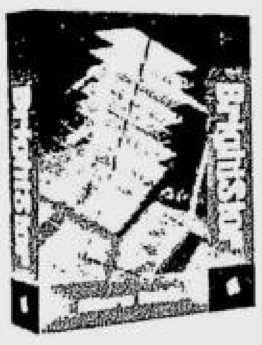

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# Gov't losing ₱6B from cell phone firms

**By Clarissa S. Batino**

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance has estimated that phone companies deprive the government of as much as P6 billion in value added taxes yearly out of the practice—mostly by mobile phone firms—of paying the 10-percent VAT on prepaid cards only when these are reported sold by distributors.

To plug this loophole, senior finance officials are seriously studying a proposal from Congress to front-load the collection of VAT so that the phone companies will have to pay the output VAT once the prepaid cards are issued and not after they are sold.

House ways and means committee chair Jules Ledesma earlier proposed to collect the 10-percent VAT from phone firms up-front.

Finance officials are studying whether the move can be addressed by a regulation of the Bureau of Internal Revenue or by a law.

Pressed for additional sources of revenue because of the widening budget deficit, the finance department has been training its sights on possible tax leaks in the telecommunications sector, where players enjoy juicy profits, especially from text messaging.

A finance official said Ledesma raised the idea that prepaid cards could be a big source of tax leakage as telecom and Internet companies were only paying the VAT on the cards once these were reported sold by their distributors.

Ledesma said prepaid card providers, by investing temporary earnings in short-term instruments, were earning from the money that should have been remitted early on to the government.

Because of the faulty setup, a finance official said prepaid card sales reported by telecom companies could be erroneous and their VAT declarations irregular.

"We really don't have a way of knowing whether they are declaring the correct prepaid sales simply based on reports of their distributors that could be erratic. As a result, we believe, like Congressman Ledesma, that we sustain P5 billion to P6 billion in revenue losses from this practice," the official said.

The same official said the new move on prepaid cards was separate from the plan of the department to lobby for a 7- to 10-percent gross receipts tax on the earnings of cellular phone companies.

The proposal to tax mobile phone firms, particularly their texting operations, was first voiced by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho in the middle of April.

But a strong opposition from the texting public, as well as from mobile phone providers, forced the finance department to suspend the plan.

Companies operating a mobile phone service include Globe Telecom Inc. and Smart Telecommunications Inc.

Pending proposals before Congress, authored separately by Representatives Cynthia Villar and Aleta Suarez, specified the use of the proceeds on gross receipts tax against cellular phone companies to finance the computer literacy programs of public schools. The DOF, however, wanted that 40 percent of the fund be used to support the budget.

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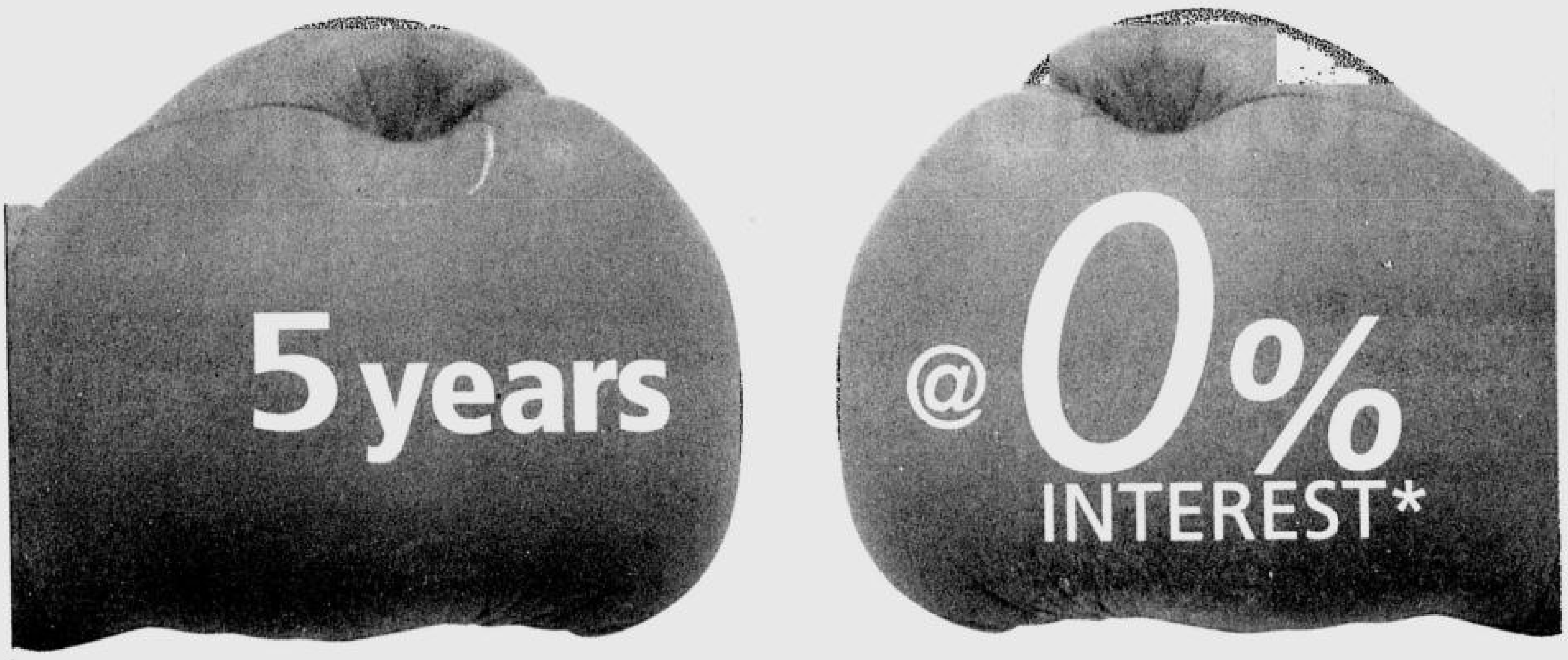

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# Aborted air deals with US cost RP P17B, study says

**By Abigail L. Ho**

THE PHILIPPINES could be on its way to attracting at least 5 million tourists a year by 2010, with a contribution of around P17 billion to the country's gross domestic product, had it pushed through with an open skies agreement with the United States as early as 1982.

In a research paper entitled "Philippine Civil Aviation: Opportunities Missed and Seized," Asian Institute of Management professor Victor Limlingan said the country had been missing the benefits of more liberalized air links for 20 years now.

"Commissioned by the Philippine Department of Tourism to craft a strategy for developing the Philippines as a prime tourism destination, McKinsey & Co. concluded that the Philippines could, if it adopts the right policies, increase its tourist arrivals from around 2 million in 2000 to 5 million in 2010. These 5 million tourists would create 6 million jobs and contribute P17 billion to the Philippine economy," Limlingan said.

Limlingan explained that the country was the first to have an opportunity to sign an open skies accord with the United States in 1982, but the government opted to ask for its deferment five times.

Although the country had already signed an air transport agreement with the United States in 1982, it sought the deferment of the provision on unlimited air access, citing the need to develop its aviation industry as reason.

But in 1983, the country again asked for the deferment of the unlimited access provision in the RP-US air agreement. It again did so in 1985, 1988 and 1995.

If it would not renegotiate with the United States before Oct. 1 next year, though, the provision would automatically take effect.

United Parcel Services operations head Benjamin Solis said the deferment of the implementation of the unlimited access provision was a result of the country's very protectionist stance for local airlines.

"PAL (Philippines Airlines Inc.) has been overprotected all these years. As a result, it never grew up. It's still a retarded child up to now," he said.

# Meralco predicts 2.8% decline in profitability

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

THE MANILA Electric Co. expects its profitability to further go down to 2.8 percent by year's end compared with 3.5 percent in 2001.

Meralco president Jesus Francisco said in an interview the decline in the utility's return on rate base was due to its continued inability to raise power rates.

"Our assumption is that we will have a flat growth rate in sales this year," Francisco said.

He added that Meralco projects electricity sales to grow between zero and 2 percent in 2002.

Francisco explained that this was because the power distribution giant's performance was down in the first half of the year.

In July, Meralco reported that it suffered a 51.2-percent decline in net income for the first semester from P953 million in 2001 to P465 this year.

"If we would attain a 2-percent growth, we should offset our first-half performance with a 4- or 5-percent growth in the second half," Francisco said.

He added: "I hope these projections are wrong and that we do achieve growth."

The Meralco chief said sales in August were good. "July sales were not so good because of the rains, but we hope September would be better."

Also, Francisco said the firm's capital expenditure would go down by 40 percent to P6 billion from the originally planned P10 billion.

"We have spent P3 billion in the first half and most likely this capex would reach P6 billion at the end of the year," he said.

Asked about earlier statements by other Meralco officials that the company might not even afford to spend P6 billion in 2002, Francisco said: "Some capex cannot be stopped once half of it has been (laid out)."

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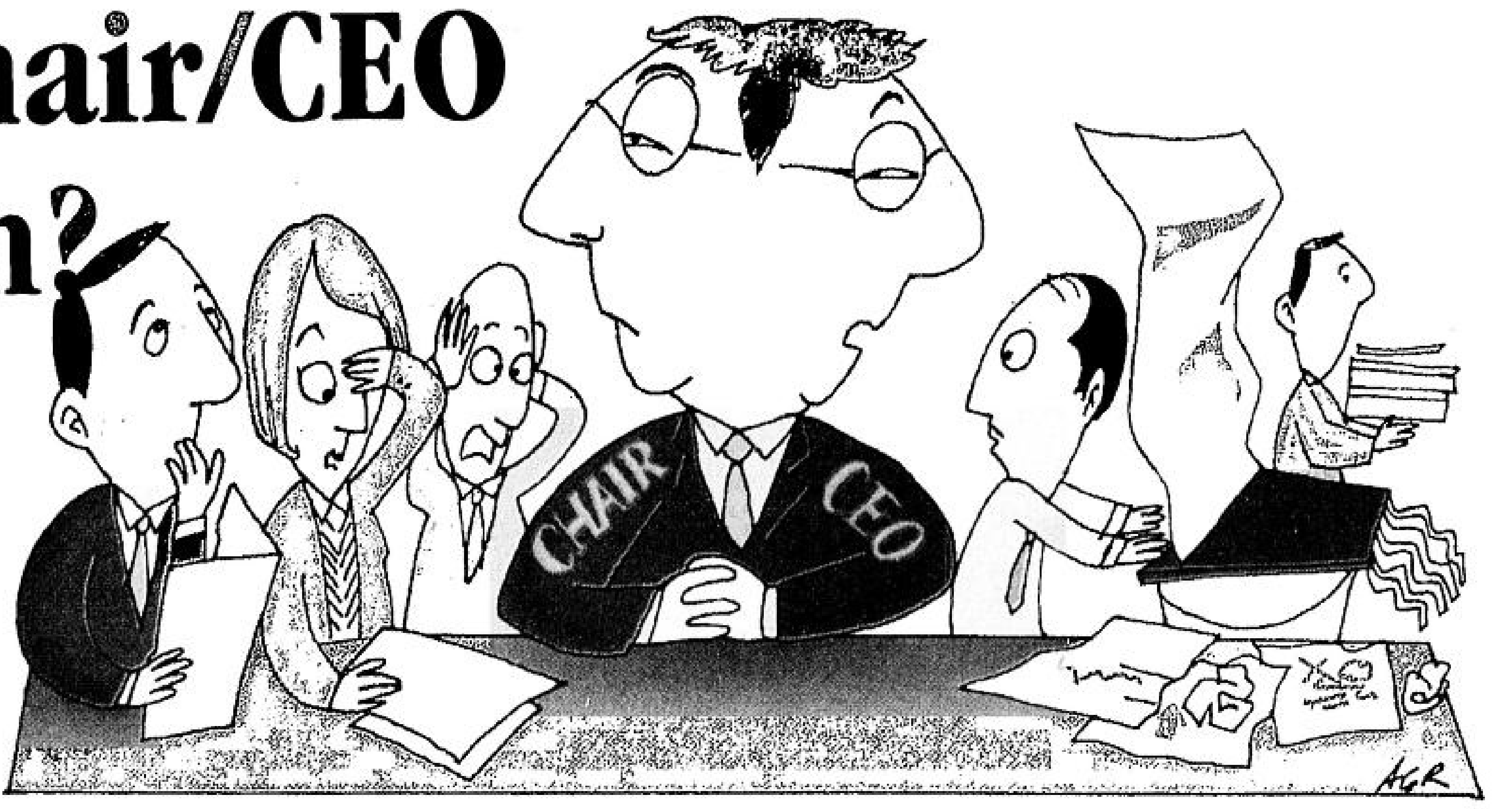
# Is the title chair/CEO an oxymoron?



**By JJ Calero**
*Contributor*

THE ENRON and Worldcom scandals in the United States have triggered a series of discussions on the soundness of corporate structures where the chief executive officer (CEO) and chair are one and the same.

That's because in most countries of the world other than the USA, the role of the chairman and the CEO are different and are filled by different people.

The reason for this is the chair should not be part of management and should be able to exercise independent judgment in behalf of the shareholders as a whole.

If the chief executive officer is supposed to report to the board, how can he in turn report to himself as chairman?

These positions are kept separately to ensure that there are automatic checks and balances.

In the United States, where it is common for the same person to hold both positions, there now exists strong pressure from the stockholders to separate them.

Interestingly enough, realizing that they do have a problem, what they have done instead is to create safeguards.

The Listing Rules of the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) call for an increased proportion of independent directors on boards, giving them a stricter standard of independence and allowing them to hold regular meetings of independent directors in the absence of the chair/CEO.

The listing also call for the creation of audit and compensation committees made up of independent directors.

In a series of meetings with Filipino chief executive officers from the banking community, Henry Bosch, former head of the Australian Securities and Exchange Commission and professor in charge of the chair's course (offered at the Australian Institute of Company Directors) explained it this way:

"Shareholders elect boards to watch over their interests and to see to it that management is managing properly.

If the CEO, who is appointed by the board and is accountable to it, is also its leader and manager, the board will find it more difficult to hold him accountable."

The chair controls the agenda, the discussion in the boardroom, has major influence on the structure and membership of the board committees, and has a powerful voice in the membership of the board.

> It is far easier for a director to ask, "Mr. Chairman, I should like to know why management has not done X?" than to ask, " Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask why you have not done X?"

If the CEO, who also brings the papers to the board and controls the executives, holds that role it will be very difficult for the board to be effective.

It is far easier for a director to ask, "Mr. chair, I should like to know why management has not done X?" than to ask, " Mr. chair, I should like to ask why you have not done X?"

Similarly, questions about the chair/CEO's remuneration may also be more difficult to resolve.

With the Enron and WorldCom scandals, there seems to be a thorough examination of the US structure.

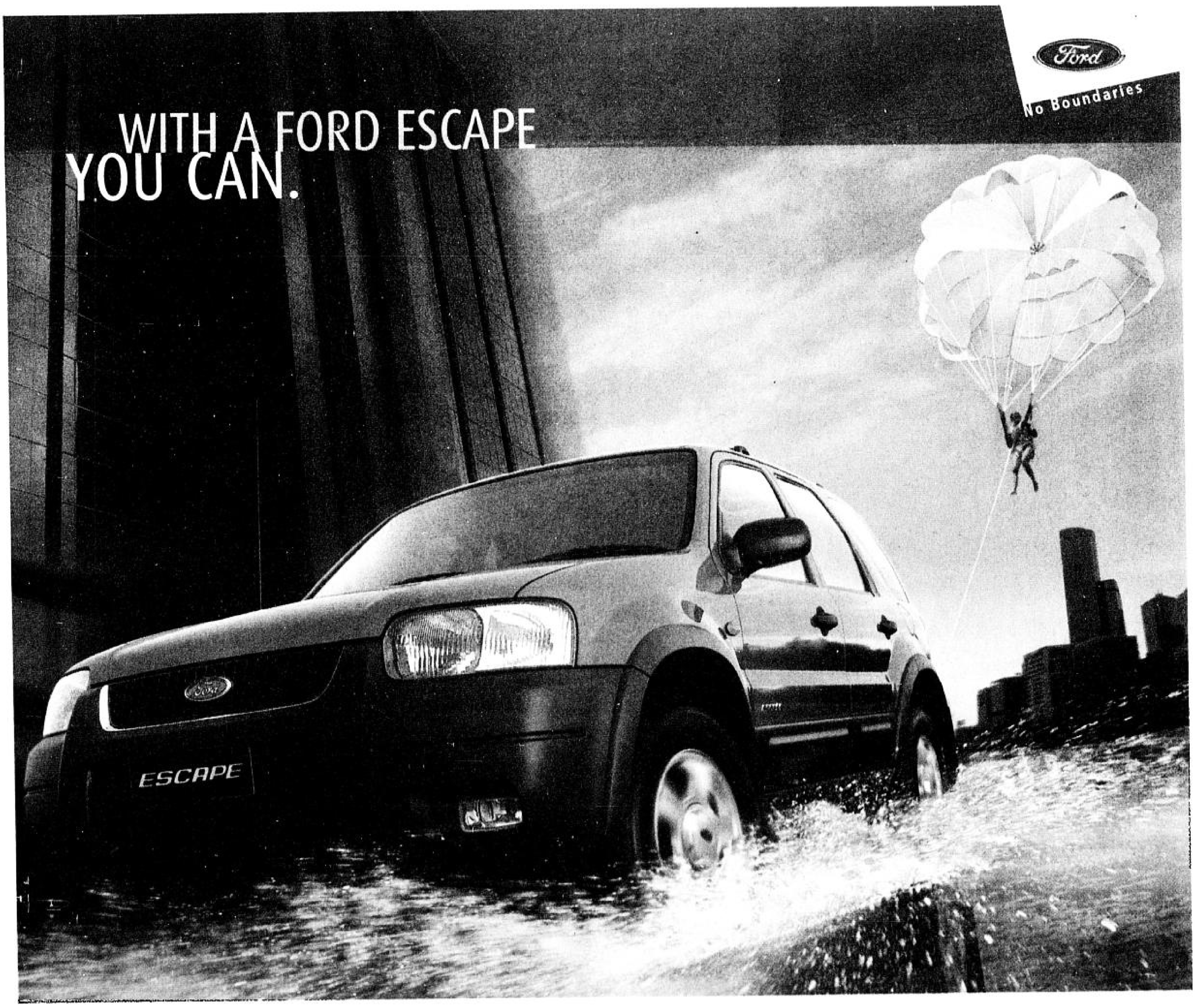
The US Senate is in on the act, so is their SEC and their Stock Exchanges. Changes are forthcoming.

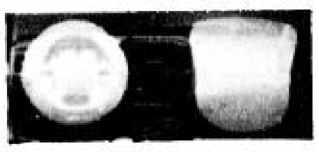
What shape will these take we still don't know.

But definitely here in the Philippines there are numerous firms where the CEO and the chair are one and the same person.

Most of the time it is because these firms are predominantly family-owned corporations.

Are we going to eventually gravitate to the European method? Perhaps. This will depend on how the United States makes its reforms, and whether they will be willing to eat some humble pie and adapt worldwide practices.

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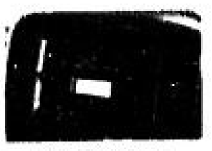
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# A catalyst of change in RP

By Charles E. Buban

DO YOU KNOW that the Philippines now exports vehicles to Thailand and Indonesia? With the launch of its Vehicle Export Program, Ford Philippines becomes the first and only automotive company in the country to become a volume exporter of completely built-up vehicles, thereby strengthening its commitment to the Association of Southeast Asian Nation Free Trade Agreement.

Ford pumped in P4 billion worth of investment in its manufacturing facilities in Sta. Rosa, Laguna which now manufactures the newest lines of Ford Lynx (known as Ford Laser abroad) as well as the Ford Escape SUV for export to the two Asean countries.

With the program, Ford is expected to manufacture and ship 6,000 vehicles to Thailand and Indonesia. This will make Ford Philippines the center of production for the Ford Lynx and the Ford Escape, exporting more than 65,000 vehicles to Indonesia and Thailand over the next five years.

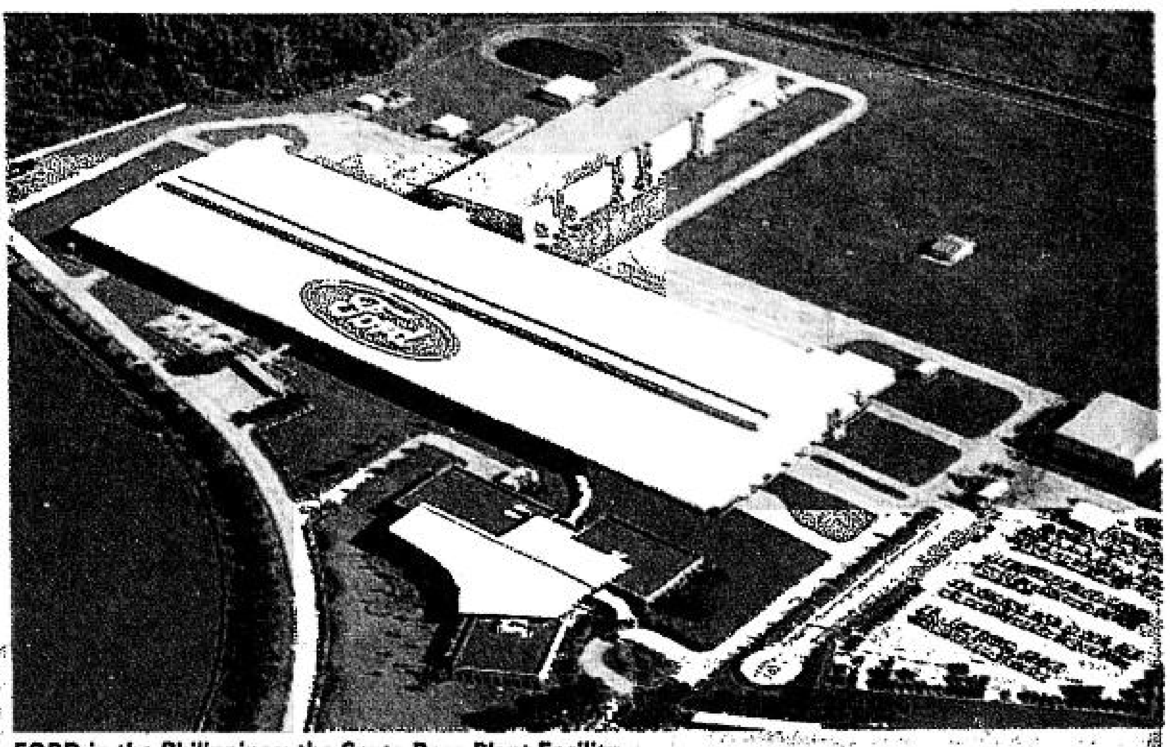
"This is strong proof of our commitment to assist this country in its effort to improve trade balance," says Joey Turano, Ford Motor Company Philippines VP for Manufacturing in reference to the planned drop in intra-Asean tariffs on vehicles to 0-5 percent.

### AICO scheme

Last year's signing of a Memorandum of Agreement of the Philippines marks the approval of Ford's proposal for an Asean Industrial Cooperation program, which supports the trading of vehicles at preferential 0-5-percent tariffs. This allows Ford to rationalize manufacturing activities at its operations in Thailand and the Philippines, thus eliminating duplication of vehicles manufactured from each plant.

Under the AICO, Ford has relocated the assembly of the Ranger from the Philippines to Thailand, and move the assembly of its Lynx from Thailand to the Philippines this year. This plant specialization will result in an intra-Asean trade of over $1.2 billion over the next five years.

JOEY TURANO



FORD in the Philippines; the Santa Rosa Plant Facility

"The AICO scheme only shows that both countries share Ford's belief that regional integration and trade liberalization will bring vast benefits like increasing each county's industrial competitiveness, large-scale manufacturing, which in turn contributes to the growth and development of automotive parts suppliers," says Turano.

### ISO 9002 certification

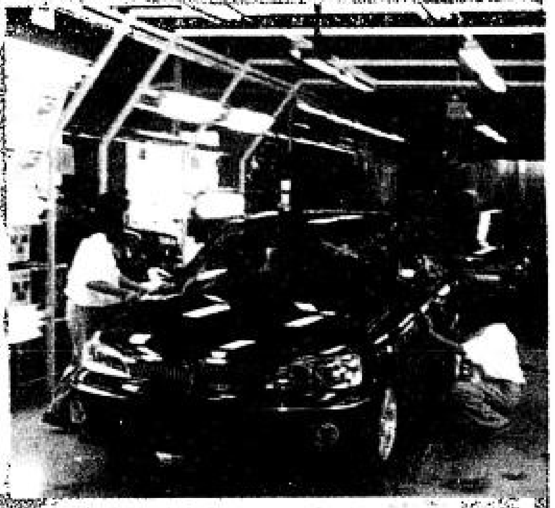
Ford Philippines, in its commitment to be recognized internationally, was awarded by German-based international certifying body TUV Rhineland the ISO 9002 certification.

ISO 9002 ensures Ford Philippines would be more competitive in quality, and guarantees consumers all vehicles from Ford Philippines have passed the strictest and highest quality standards.

Prior to this certification, Ford Philippines was also certified ISO 14001 in 1999, making the company the first automaker to have its plants certified worldwide under international environment standards upon launch.

The P4-billion Laguna plant, located at the Greenfield Automotive Park in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, has a capacity to produce 25,000 vehicles a year and is capable of producing at least four different vehicle platforms. It currently assembles the Lynx sedan and the Escape compact SUV. Ford Philippines' fleet of vehicles also includes the Expedition, the Chateau Wagon, the F-150, the Explorer Sport Trac and the Ranger as well as the luxurious Lincoln Town Car.

"In achieving this prestigious recognition, we also accept the responsibility to keep up with the standards and emphasize our continuous effort for constant improvement," assures Turano. "We are here to provide our consumers, whether here or abroad, with the highest quality products and services second to none."



# Ford powers its way to the top of RP motor industry

HENRY CO

IT WAS in 1997, when Ford decided to go back to the Philippines. Back then a lot of people were wondering how Ford would contend with the bigger—and more established—Japanese automakers in the country. They say gaining a foothold would be Ford's major test of resolve.

A year later, the world's largest truck manufacturer and second-biggest automaker broke ground on its new plant in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. Ford has indeed returned to the Philippines.

Since then, Ford Philippines has evolved not only as a major player in the local industry but has reinforced its global stature in the automotive market. The construction of its P4-billion world-class manufacturing plant in Sta. Rosa gives a strong message that the company is out for the long haul.

"The Sta. Rosa Plant is just the beginning. The infrastructure will serve as a launching pad for many endeavors Ford Philippines would undertake here in the country," says Henry Co, president of Ford Group Philippines.

### A new chapter

As Ford Philippines marks the third year of its plant's operation, the company begins a new chapter in its history by initiating the Ford Export Program. The program will make Ford, the country's first and only volume exporter of built-up vehicles to two Asean countries, namely Thailand and Indonesia.

"Making Ford Lynx and Ford Escape vehicles here and exporting them abroad are part of the company's long-term strategy to help the Philippines generate additional investment in the country, create more jobs (at Ford and its suppliers) as well as contribute to the automotive trade balance," assures Co.

The program is expected to help drive the development of global competitive strength among local component suppliers and offer much higher potential for the industry than merely developing local content for low-volume domestic requirements.

"This country is the world's 29th largest vehicle market—too small to be competitive without access to larger markets. Since nearly 85 percent of a vehicle's value is based on parts and raw materials, it is critical that cost and quality improvements be made for Philippine vehicle manufacturing to be competitive in the future. What we're doing is to show local manufacturers how to be world-class," says Co.

### Environmental concern

And while the company flexes its muscles production-wise, Ford Philippines makes sure it won't impact much on the environment. "Three years ago we received the ISO 14001 certification, which ensures our facilities complies with world regulations and that our environmental management system isn't too harmful to the environment. What we're setting here is a path that would make us a model company for the 21st century," says Co.

To further its environmental responsibility, Ford Asean launched the Conservation and Environmental Grants program two years ago. The grant was able to support about 100 projects in the countries of Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and the Philippines since its inception in the region and this year the grant was increased to more than P16 million and extended to include Indonesia and Cambodia, as well.

"Generating awareness is key and Ford aims to inspire more people to make a difference towards the preservation of our heritage, culture and environment which the grant aims to support," explains Co.

"Our challenge as an automaker is to provide more vehicles to more people that offer no compromises to the customer and are environmentally friendly," added Co. ***(Charles E. Buban)***

*Ford Motor Company Philippines*

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# Meet Ford's latest member

By Charles E. Buban

When Ford Escape made its global debut a couple of years ago, the world got a glimpse of a compact SUV that effectively mixes ride comfort, cargo capacity, and versatility with all-weather traction. Now Filipinos will get to experience the vehicle as the Ford Escape finally arrives in the Philippine market this month.

The 2002 Ford Escape is the newest addition to the Ford No Boundaries lineup, the most comprehensive lineup of SUVs in the industry. It comes with a 2.0 Zetec 4 cylinder In-line engine that delivers 130 horses and 183 Nm or torque.

"The 2002 Ford Escape will appeal to the young and the young-at-heart. It is a compact SUV for people with active lifestyles since this fun and versatile SUV can easily be maneuvered in the city and tough enough to bring on weekend adventures," describes Dave Macasadia, Ford Group Philippines VP for Sales and Marketing.

## More room

The 2002 Ford Escape offers best-in-class interior that comfortably seats five adults with room to spare for all their gear. With a cargo area, with seats up, offering 33 cubic feet of storage space, the 2002 Ford Escape has the most room than any other in the small SUV category.

Both the XLS and the XLT variants have rear seating systems that can be folded flat, for even more cargo space. The latched seat back can be folded forward and the head restraint removed.

The Escape also offers 4-wheel drive capability with the unique Control Trac II system that allows the driver to shift between "full-time 4x4" or "4x4 auto" even on the fly. When set on "4x4 Auto", the system automatically proportions more torque to the rear wheels when the front wheels begin to slip. The advantage of this advanced system is that it requires no intervention from the driver as there are no gear shift levers to move in order to engage the system.

In ordinary driving conditions, the 4x4 system proportions torque only to the front wheels to enhance fuel economy. The rear wheels only come into play in adverse driving conditions.

## Poised stance

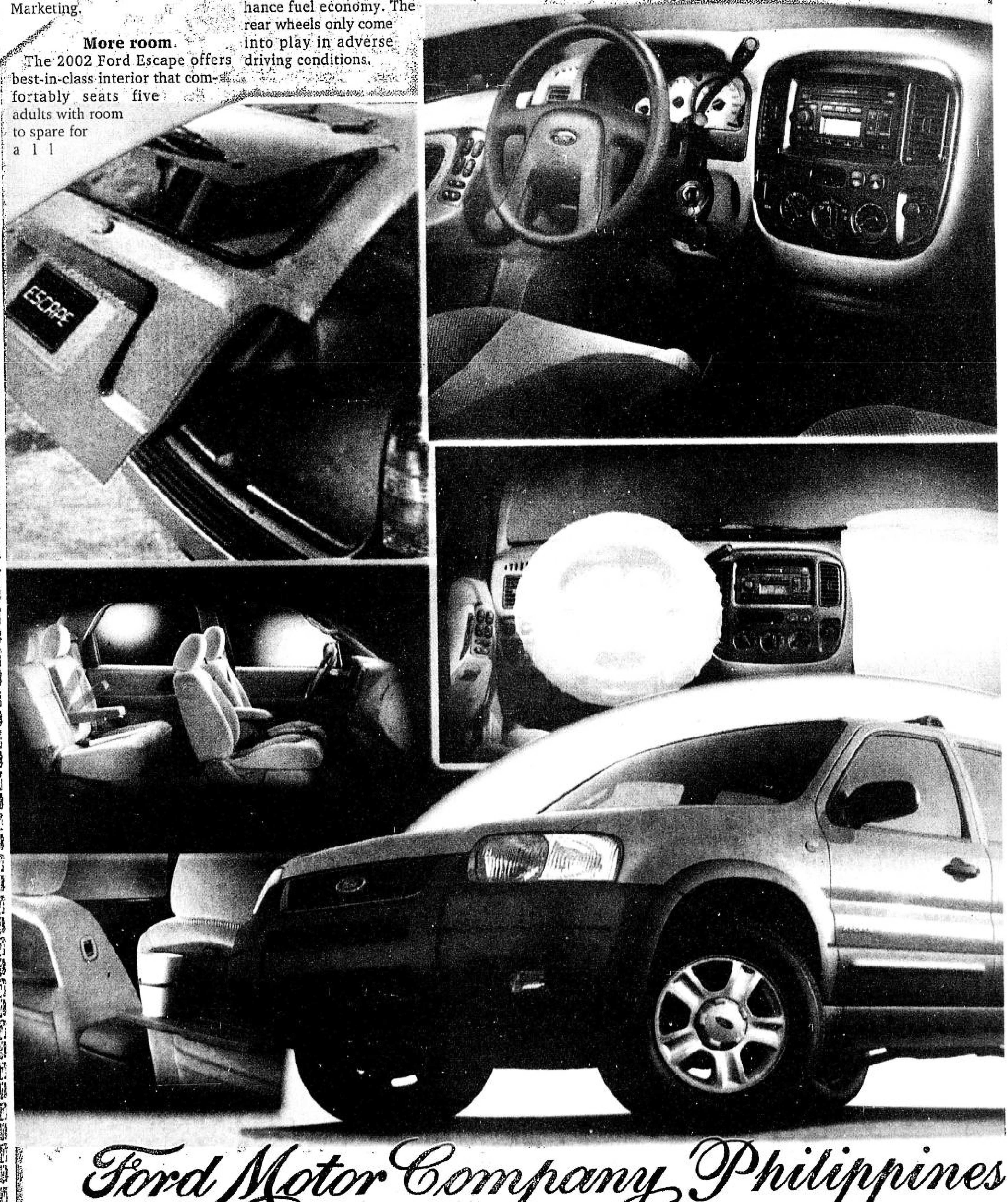
The 2002 Ford Escape's confidently poised stance with wide body cladding and integrated bumper guards delivers a muscular, athletic interior that hints of its off-road functionality.

Riding on a MacPherson Strut type suspension on the front and an independent rear suspension at the rear, the 2002 Ford Escape rides and handles in a decidedly amicable manner. Ride quality is vastly superior to what you'd find in any body-on-frame-constructed SUV, and a wide track keeps the 2002 Ford Escape nicely planted during turns.

All in all, the 2002 Ford Escape is sure to prove a serious contender in the already saturated compact-SUV market. "I believe the Escape will be very popular among Filipino consumers," hopes Macasadia. "In fact, I'm confident it would be the market leader in its segment soon."

> The 2002 Ford Escape is the newest addition to the Ford No Boundaries lineup, the most comprehensive line-up of SUVs in the industry.

DAVE MACASADIA



Ford Motor Company Philippines

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# To sell a Ford brand

By Charles E. Buban

**One wonders how a vehicle manufacturer of five years in the country is able to enjoy a strong market share and even give the country's economy a lift when it starts exporting vehicles. It all begins with a wonderful company.**

"The Ford oval (logo) is one of the world's most recognizable brands. After all, Ford is the second largest automaker in the world building about 6 million cars annually and has been in existence for almost a century," says Dave Macasadia, Ford Group Philippines VP for Sales and Marketing. "So people of all ages knew or recognized the brand immediately. This combined with our distinct product line-up allowed us to penetrate the market easily."

Besides, a good product can always sell itself. When for Ford returned in the Philippines five years ago, they offered products that were distinct and stood out; they were never-before available in the country, offered innovative designs and features and obviously stood out in terms of size (they are all full-size vehicles).

### Best performers

"With true-blue American vehicles like the Expedition, F-150, Chateau Wagon (E150) and the luxurious Lincoln Town Car, we definitely broadened the market's choice. Discerning Filipino buyers were ready for them as we easily sold out our stocks then," remembers Macasadia.

Since then, the Ford brand has become a favorite choice. "Look around Metro Manila and you'll notice more and more people are driving a Ford Expedition, our perennial best-seller," says Macasadia. "Filipinos recognize the Expedition's value proposition. It offers functionality, safety, security and comfort that full-size SUV customers demand and have come to expect from a Ford SUV."

But of course, in terms of absolute numbers, the Lynx sedan still leads the Ford stable. Its sales performance was further boosted with the recent introduction of the 2002 Lynx, which offers fresher styling and comprehensive features.

Today, the Lynx has become the third most popular passenger car in the highly competitive 1.6L segment.

To further entice market interest, Ford has also introduced, through its sister company Ford Credit, graduated financing scheme for its buyers. A 24-hour Emergency Roadside Assistance is also now available to its customers.

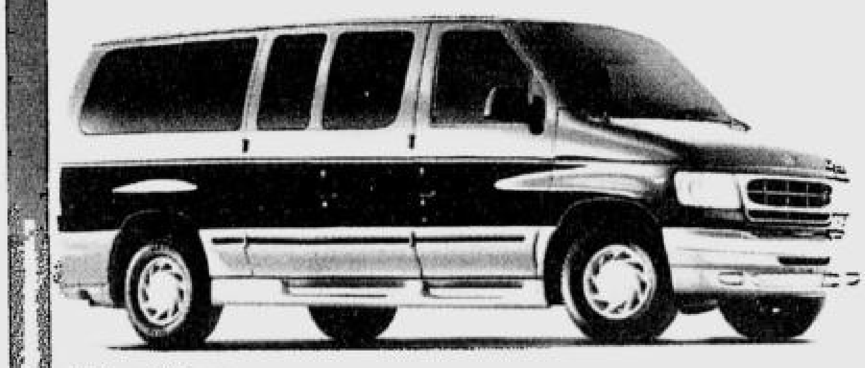
No wonder, for two consecutive years, Ford has received the highest score in the J.D. Power Customer Satisfaction rating, an evaluation survey taken from customers who purchased either a passenger car or light truck for personal use.

## Limitless possibilities with these Ford vehicles

Expedition

Explorer Sport Trac

Ranger


Chateau Wagon

F-150 Supercrew

Lincoln Town Car

Lynx

'With true-blue American vehicles like the Expedition, F-150, Chateau Wagon (E150) and the luxurious Lincoln Town Car, we definitely broadened the market's choice'

Ford Motor Company Philippines

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

# Customers' needs, always a Ford priority

**By Charles E. Buban**

Dealing with customers used to be simple: Sell the products they wanted. Period.

Today, it's a bit more complex than that. Customers are getting more informed about their wants and needs, and becoming more aware of their rights and privileges. And their options are growing. No man is an island, they say. The same adage applies to businesses. No service or product provider is alone in his turf. Competitors make life for a company nowadays more challenging, indeed.

Ford Motor Company has been in existence long enough—around a century—to notice these developments and learn from them. With a network that keeps on growing in its US home base and around the world (128 as of last count), it has even been able to integrate local market cultures with global business trends.

"I believe this is one very important advantage since being a global company, we can see what is developing from one place and how the Ford network there reacts to a particular challenge. Whatever lessons learned from there is shared with the whole Ford family so that whatever we encounter here, we have the whole Ford network to consult with. Through this synergy we are able to effectively approach our customers and their requirements," says Metelo Arias Jr., Ford Group Philippines VP for Parts and Services.

### Highest among 7

Perhaps the most obvious confirmation of the company's efforts to learn from its local environment and add value to its products and services by adding its global experience is the recent result of JD Power Asia Pacific 2002 Philippines Customer Satisfaction Index Study released this year. For the second consecutive year, the Ford brand ranks highest in customer satisfaction from among the seven major vehicles sold in the country.

The JD Power Asia Pacific conducts this customer satisfaction research to see how a particular brand performs in one country year after year.

The study is based on evaluations from 1,665 new vehicle owners surveyed at 12 to 18 months of ownership and includes customers who purchased their personal-use passenger cars and light trucks between September 2000 and May 2001. The index is calculated using seven factors, namely: problems experienced, service quality, user-friendly service, service delivery, service advisor, service initiation and in-service experience.

From the study, Ford has been the only brand to record above-average scores across all seven factors, giving Ford a CSI score of 857, 36 points above the industry average.

"Ford stands out in terms of identifying and acting on its customer's needs. This includes delivery of excellent service performance and consistently high implementation of service standards. As a result, local Ford dealers are providing service that not only meets but also exceeds customer expectations in a highly competitive market," reports Arias.

### Effective front-liners

The reason for Ford's strong presence in the country is its front-liners, which include the staff in the dealerships, technicians, and the people manning Ford's Dealer Customer Relationship Center.

Starting from the showroom, Ford has made sure that all its 13 dealerships nationwide know how to pamper their customers. "We have made sure that all our latest models are well represented, since nothing beats viewing a Ford vehicle in the flesh, so to speak. Our dealership personnel are more than ready to talk to visitors on what vehicle best fits their particular lifestyle," explains Arias.

In each of these dealerships Ford maintains a Dealership Customer Relationship Center, which serve as a one-stop shop for any inquiries especially right after a customer has bought a unit. "The DCRC will contact the customer three days after the delivery of the vehicle to remind them of periodic maintenance servicing that the vehicle will require."

"The DCRC handles any customer inquiries and shall coordinate with the corresponding departments to arrive at either an answer to the query or resolution to the concern. It is Ford's job to take care of its customers, and we start with things that should be basic but are often neglected like guarantee appointments for service and telling in advance how much a service will cost," says Arias.

METELO Arias Jr. with Ford Escape

### Support services

Ford has made sure only factory-trained technicians are allowed to handle high-tech diagnostic equipment, such as its state-of-the-art World Wide Diagnostic System. "Only our technicians, working with parts that have been especially designed for Ford vehicles, can ensure comprehensive and expert servicing that free our customers from car-related worries," reminds Arias.

Good for two years or 50,000 km from a vehicle's delivery or in-service date, Ford also offers the New Vehicle Limited Warranty that will cover most necessary repairs, replacements and adjustments needed to correct defects in factory-supplied materials and workmanship. Also covered is corrosion-related damage on body sheet metal panels that are due to defects in factory-supplied materials and workmanship (This warranty, however, does not apply to regularly scheduled services and Ford vehicles that have been imported into the Philippines by parties other than Ford Philippines).

What's more, Ford maintains an ample supply of spare parts so customers need not worry about running out of them. "Being relatively new in this market should not make our customers think we are not equipped with the necessary tools and spare parts—in fact, we can deal with almost all of our customers' needs."

Ford EDSA
Service
Ford Cabanatuan
Ford Quezon
QualityCare
at your service
Ford On-the-road
F.O.R.C.E.
Response Crew and Equipment
QualityCare
ERA
EMERGENCY ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

*Ford Motor Company Philippines*

# People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

## CFIP celebrates furniture week

THE CHAMBER of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP) celebrates Furniture Week during the third week of September. CFIP has come up with a month-long series of activities to commemorate the event. Highlights of the month are a Consumer Awareness Program, the Furniture Forum and the President's Meeting.

The Furniture Week was institutionalized in 2000 by virtue of Proclamation No. 368, Declaring the third week of September each year as Furniture Week.

The proclamation is an offshoot of the Magna Carta for Small Enterprises (Republic Act 6977), which was enacted Jan. 24, 1991. With the greater focus being accorded the small and medium enterprises as the engines of economic growth and national development.

"Given that 90 percent of the players in the furniture industry are also categorized as SMEs, it was a natural tendency to institutionalize a program that will support our development," explains CFIP national president Jose Leo P. Caparas.

Moreover, the furniture industry is considered a productive sector, having been declared as one of the export winners of the country.

"Because of the international exposure of our industry as whole, we believe that there is a need for a continuous program supported by the government to implement a consistent awareness program that serves as an assurance for the need to be more competitive," relates Caparas.

And this support from the government is via Proclamation 368.

Caparas says, "We were really happy when this Furniture Week became institutionalized because of the tough competition and globalization. This is the time that manufacturers put their acts together and get all the support we can get."

For this year, the focus is more on advocacy. "We want the public to know what is happening with our sector and how we can contribute to national development," he continues.

Thus, the Furniture Industry Awareness Program, running for the entire September, is a tri-media campaign that explains issues related to the sector, paradigms industry players espouse relative to their growth and development, general information on the industry, and success stories of select furniture manufacturers.

The Furniture Forum is another event that many industry players, including those who plan to be part of the sector, are looking forward to. Set on Sept. 18-19 at the Exportbank Plaza, the highlight of the Forum is the extensive discourse and discussion on policy changes that will improve the industry's competitiveness and profitability.

"We will have speakers who will expound on topics such as access to credit, lower transport and inter-island shipping costs, and even labor policies," enthuses Caparas.

Other topics are on the sustainability of manufacturing and global competitiveness. Meanwhile, participants are coming from all aspects of furniture making, like designers and suppliers. Furniture makers, even those who are not members of CFIP, plus government and non-government agencies, are also part of the Forum.

Prior to the Furniture Forum is the Annual Presidents' Meeting. This is a gathering of all the 13 regional chapter presidents of the chamber from Cebu, Pampanga, Iloilo, Davao, Bacolod, Vigan, Albay, Cagayan, etc.

"We will again revalidate our solidarity as an organization by presenting the developments in our respective areas. Of course, an integral part of the discussion will focus on what each area can do to strengthen the industry as a whole," Caparas explains.

CFIP is the prime mover behind the Philippine International Furniture Show (PIFS) and the Philippine Furniture Festival (PFF). This year, the 23rd edition of the PFF is slated from Nov. 8-17 at three venues: SM Megamall Megatrade halls 2 and 3, Festival Supermall in Alabang (Carousel Court), and Robinsons Starmills, Pampanga (Plaza Arayat). PIFS 2003 is on Feb. 28 to March 3 at the Centennial Expo/Mimosa at the Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga.

**MASTER FRANCHISEE FOR CEBU, DUMAGUETE**

Infocom, the Internet company of PLDT, was recently awarded with the master franchise in Cebu and Dumaguete by Netopia Internet Café, the country's largest network of Internet and gaming cafes. The agreement is expected to empower the larger masses of Filipinos in the rural areas through technology by providing cheap access to the Internet. Forging the agreement are Infocom Technologies' Cecilio B. Lorenzo, chief executive officer (2nd from left), Raymond Ricafort, Netopia Internet Café president (3rd from left), Burton G. Taleon, AVP consumer access sales (left) and Jito Grau, franchise and operations manager (right).

**UST HOSPITAL MRI INAUGURATION**

The Division of Radiological Sciences of the University of Santo Tomas Hospital recently inaugurated its newest facility the Magnetic Resonance Imaging Section at the ground floor of the hospital's Private Division. Shown is Dr. Ma. Margarita M. Galon, Department of Health Undersecretary, cutting the ceremonial ribbon. Assisting her are Fr. Tamerlane R. Lana OP, UST rector (left) and Dr. Orestes P. Monzon, chair, USTH Division of Radiological Sciences (right). UST Hospital's MRI Section is equipped with a state-of-the-art non-invasive medical imaging system capable of producing clear pictures of the human body to diagnose any disease condition.

### Color meditation classes

THIS UNIQUE meditation program combines color therapy with "A Course in Miracles" to help one use color for healing and wellness. The class is offered by Amy P. Cavosora, who has a diploma in color therapy apart from theological education and Catholic charismatic experience. Level 1 classes are to be held starting Sept. 11 at Ink & Stone bookshop at The Podium, Ortigas and on Sept. 15 at Brews and Browns in Sterten Place, Teacher's Village East, Quezon City. Call Amy at 925-2795, 0917-6089625, e-mail amelia33@yehey.com, or log on to http://go.to/soulsearch for more information.

**STERLING TOBACCO'S NEW HQ**

In a move to better serve its market, Sterling Tobacco Corp., makers of Bowling Gold, Stork and Miller cigarette brands, recently transferred to its corporate office at the 5th floor of the Hanston Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center. Cutting the ribbon for the City of Pasig is Mayor Soledad Eusebio (2nd from right), who was likewise guest of honor. Attending the ribbon-cutting ceremonies are (from left) Jhayner Bufi, vice president for human resources, Edgardo Malubag, vice president for operations, Harijadi Martjiono, vice president for finance, and Fr. Josefino Opena. Standing behind is Michael Albino, vice president for sales and marketing. Sterling Tobacco Corp. is a subsidiary and member of the House of Sampoerna of Indonesia.

## Moving to new campus a colossal task

THE INTERNATIONAL School Manila will welcome its students and commence its first school year in a state-of-the-art campus in Fort Bonifacio. Workers are hurrying to put the final cosmetic touches as teachers have returned to settle in and prepare for orientation with the school's superintendent David Toze.

Students can look forward to large carpeted classrooms, landscaped quadrangles, the luxury of three air-conditioned gymnasia with NBA-standard 10-mm synthetic sports flooring and modern Plexiglas backboards, media centers spanning three stories, a canteen with indoor and outdoor seating, an open-seating experimental theater with 350-seat capacity, a soon-to-be finished 850-seat fine and performing arts theater, numerous activity rooms for art, pottery, music, martial arts, drama and dance, as well as Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and science laboratories. The High School faculty will enjoy a faculty tower incorporated in the northern wing of the arc building. Six lighted tennis courts command both dramatic and panoramic views of Makati and Taguig, situated as they are on top of the shared facilities complex.

The International School Manila's new campus is located on the highest elevation in Fort Bonifacio. The school's design is large and open, yet not overwhelming with interconnecting buildings bounded by three sports fields, three swimming pools and playgrounds. Work and play areas are easily accessible because of their proximity. The design maximizes functionality, daylight and air without sacrificing the aesthetics or a deep respect for the environment with the use of solar energy for heating, central air-conditioning with controls for optimal energy conservation, "insolation" or the control of sunrays penetrating interior spaces, built-in water conservation system for use of gray water for flushing valves and irrigation, auto shut-off faucets and water-saving system in the shower roses and flushing valves, and the planting of thousands of trees.

IS Manila's new facility is ready for occupancy and the first day of school began Aug. 19. Call 840-8600 or e-mail communications@ismanila.com to schedule a school tour. A virtual tour will soon be available on www.ismanila.com.

**MFI, LFSI SIGN AGREEMENT**

Max's Franchising Inc. (MFI) has recently signed franchising contracts with Lucent Food Services Inc (LFSI), owner of soon-to-open Max's Restaurant in Lucena City. Present during the contract signing are (from left) Sherry Ann Malabanan, Felie Go, Carolyn Salud, and Aloha Malabanan. To be located along Lucena Diversion Road, Gulang-Gulang, Lucena City, Max's Restaurant Lucena is expected to be operational by December this year. For information on franchising, call Max's Franchising at 832-1991 local 150 and look for Lance Zafra.

**FIGARO ORTIGAS NOW OPEN**

Johann and Ellen Chua beam with pride as they open their franchised branch of Figaro on Ortigas Avenue. Figaro Ortigas is open from breakfast until midnight. This new outlet is within walking distance from Xavier and ICA and Mary the Queen Parish. Call 751-1801 or log on to www.figarocoffee.com for more info. Figaro serves freshly brewed coffee pastries and light meals like pasta and sandwiches.

**ACTRON INDUSTRIES ELECTS BOARD**

Actron Industries Inc., a leading food specialty ingredient company, recently held its stockholders meeting in Makati. Elected to its board are Oscar S. Reyes as chair, Frederick S. Dael as vice chair and head of excom, and Emmanuel V. Duenas, president and CEO. Shown are the directors and officers for Actron (from left) Francisco S. del Rosario Jr., Reyes, lawyer Polo S. Pantaleon, Dael, lawyer Eva Policar-Bautista (special adviser to the board), Col. Felix P. Duenas (chair emeritus), president Duenas, and Emmanuel C. Duenas II.

## Product FILES

### Burberry opens Shangri-La Hotel branch

BURBERRY, the must-have British fashion brand, opens another branch in Makati Sept. 12. The new store, located at the ground floor of Shangri-La Hotel along Ayala Avenue, will offer a fine selection of sportswear, outerwear, and accessories for men and women that reflect the modern spirit of Burberry. The timeless Burberry look—characterized by the distinctive red, black and camel check—has been around since the 19th century and has survived the world of changing fashion trends

## *Kameraworld allows consumers to order services via Internet*

CONSUMERS need not go to their favorite photo store to order color prints, thanks to Kameraworld's digital services on the worldwide web.

Called ePrintme, the new service allows consumers to upload their digital images into the Kameraworld website. By following simple instructions, the consumer can place his print orders from his office to home computers anywhere in the country and pick up the finished prints from one of six Kameraworld digital outlets in Metro Manila the next day.

According to Enie L. Gueco, vice president and chief operating officer, ePrintme is a first in the Philippine digital photo imaging industry and shows Kameraworld's leading edge in bringing the latest digital innovation to consumers.

By clicking on the ePrintme window on the Kameraworld website (www.kameraworld.com.ph), the consumer is offered the option to sign up for membership or surf the website. Membership is free and carries no obligation on the part of the consumer who automatically qualifies for up to five megabytes of storage space as a sign-up bonus.

This large storage space is aptly called "album" and will enable the consumer to store up to 10 of his favorite digital images online. He may use the album as a staging point to order prints from. Or he may share the space with friends and loved ones in order to view his gallery of digital images online. The images will be kept in the album for as long as 30 days.

"Ordering prints online is just one of the innovations Kameraworld has introduced since it launched the digital photo imaging revolution last year to become the first photo chain to offer full digital service to consumers," according to Gueco. He said the service is initially limited to 3R (3.5x5 inches), Big K (4x6 inches) and 5R (5x7 inches) print sizes but will eventually cover the whole range of Kameraworld's digital services that include photo restoration, color enhancement, colorization and a host of Imagik digital services.

### WITH NZ-AUSTRALIA

# Balancing RP's trade

**By Mary Elaine Friend**
*Contributor*

"AUSTRALIA and New Zealand are lucrative export markets, but they will not be handed on a silver platter," observes Albert Garcia, president of Garsworth Consulting, and a Filipino exporter to Australia.

Speaking at the recent Seminar on Exporting to Australia and New Zealand, sponsored by The Australian/New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (ANZCHAM), The Australian Trade Commission, the New Zealand Embassy, and the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC), Garcia noted that Filipino exporters do not focus on Australia or New Zealand because of the perception that these are small markets.

Australians and New Zealanders, on the other hand, are more aggressive in marketing to South East Asia.

Garcia said the primary approach to developing two-way trade between RP and Australia, and between RP and New Zealand and vice-versa is for respective governments to aim to change prevailing perceptions and encourage exchanges not just in trade but also in tourism, education and culture.

"Be prepared and do your homework" applies to the export business as well. As the pioneer of the first commercial importation and distribution of Filipino food products in Australia in 1976, Garcia literally walked down the streets of Sydney, Perth, Brisbane and Adelaide first studying the stores, then selling his goods to shop owners.

In those days, he recalls, Australia was still British-oriented, and his market was the Australian-Filipino community.

All things being equal, Garcia counts on the capacity to provide service as the most important factor in being globally competitive.

In the mid-1980s, Garcia expanded his goods to include other Asian foods such as Thai, Indonesian, Chinese and Vietnamese. He also pioneered the commercial importation of Thai rice to Australia, which he marketed as "Milagrosa" rice. Soon, the Thais followed suit and marketed their rice as Milagrosa, giving Garcia his first lesson on the importance of a patent.

Australians are straightforward and easy to deal with, according to Garcia so there is always room for compromise when it comes to bilateral trade with Australia.

"The Philippines is watching how serious Australia is in narrowing the trade imbalance. The entry of Philippine bananas, pineapples and mangoes (grown outside Guimaras) will be construed as a gesture on the part of Australia to narrow the trade imbalance," Garcia opines.

Garcia offers a possible solution for a compromise: Philippine bananas may be directly imported into Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and Southern New South Wales where there is no banana industry to protect.

In 2001, total Asean exports to Australia amounted to A$17.49 million. Philippine exports to Australia amounted to only A$507,494 or 2.9 percent of the market.

There is much room for the Philippines to expand its export market to Australia, like Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, which posted trade surpluses with Australia in 2001.

But unlike the others, the Philippines does not export crude petroleum to Australia.

Possible market niches for Filipino exporters are in seafood, furniture and woodcraft, clothing and footwear, auto parts and accessories, and manufactured consumer products.

The private sector has to be creative, Garcia asserts. Find a market niche for a product or find a product for a market niche. Indeed, the private sector can take a cue from San Miguel Corp. and Oriental/Motolite Corp.

San Miguel continues to aggressively market and distribute its San Miguel beer in Australia, and it has also invested in local manufacturing by acquiring an Australian beer company, J. Boag and Co.

On the other hand, Oriental/Motolite Corp., the Philippines' largest manufacturer of car batteries, exports about 50 percent of its production volume to Australia.

Philippine exports to New Zealand in 2001 amounted to NZ$87.34 million, and the country's leading exports are computers, bananas, and machinery parts. Likewise, the Philippines posted a trade imbalance with New Zealand in 2001.

New Zealand imports from the Philippines accounted for NZ$67.61 or only 2.5 percent of the total import market.

Lapanday Foods, a Filipino-owned company, recently joined the export business to Australia and New Zealand.

According to John A. Dwyer, President and chief executive officer, the company started exporting bananas and pineapples to New Zealand two years ago, and they supply about 10 percent of the market.

Previously, Dole Philippines monopolized the export business to New Zealand. The company also exports mangoes to Australia, from April to June, during the winter months when the supply of mangoes in Australia are low.

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# Preserving the environment

**MAPping THE FUTURE**
*Julius M. Labrador*

GLOBAL warming and pollution are concerns that increasingly affect our lives. As responsible citizens, we have to do our part in preserving our atmosphere. What we propose to do and the effectiveness of our efforts are as important as when we start to act.

The good news is that large electric power consumers can now undertake projects that mitigate the damage inflicted by companies on the environment through energy saving.

The effects of this undertaking include an increase in the company's competitiveness and profits, a chance to be involved in the greening of the supply chain, and, just as important, being a good corporate citizen.

Energy service companies or Escos for short, are engaged in helping companies save power. In one scheme, savings are shared between the companies served and the Esco. The Esco services start from benchmarking to financing and implementation of the project till completion. In some cases, the term performance contracting is used for the project.

The concept is best explained by the following:

A partnership is chosen so that the responsibility of carrying out the project is shared.

The company and the Esco share the cost of benchmarking. The company agrees to provide all the data available to the partnership. The Esco brings with it the skill and experience in measurement, equipment, software and skilled personnel to undertake the measurements.

Using benchmarking data and other information on the company's operations, the ESCO prepares a strategy on how energy is to be saved, using guidelines and formats required by financing institutions.

It then applies for a loan to implement the project. Funding need not come from the company, thus, there is no more need for capital expenses.

The loan is guaranteed by the machinery collateral, performance guarantees by the suppliers of equipment, and the track record of the Esco. Savings are divided between the cost of amortization of the loan, and the equal shares of the Esco and the company.

After the loan has been paid, the savings in the remaining years of the contract, usually three or four years, are split between the company and the Esco.

After the contract, the machinery will belong to the company.

### Answers to frequently asked questions

Each partner monitors the performance of the installation, gathering of data in real time and using software and equipment provided by the Esco. This is usually carried out in a computer room operated by an engineer from the company and another from the Esco.

At the end of each day, the data are analyzed and any discrepancies are settled within the day. If the projected performance is not attained, the machinery or systems supplier is consulted. Shared savings may be determined and distributed quarterly. Energy savings generated in an ESCO project can be part of an ISO 14000 accreditation requirement.

In some agreements, the Esco guarantees a minimum savings level to the company. For unusual events such as shutting down a wing of a hospital for maintenance, the Esco gets involved in project planning and implementation and is thus made aware of the loss in savings and is not penalized.

When the cost of electricity goes down, savings will not be as great, but both partners will be aware of such eventualities and they negotiate a settlement if there is a guarantee on the savings amount.

In companies where energy consumption is variable according to customer's requirements, provisions in the contract will have to be included taking this matter into account. At the same time, the financing institution will have to be made aware of this possibility and proper provisions made to adjust amortizations.

Similarly, in case of expansion of business, the question arises on how to share energy savings resulting from the application of techniques learned from the partnership.

The Escos have been operating in Europe for the past 25 years. In the past 10 years, the business has grown. Hotel chains, hospitals, large manufacturing companies, schools and even government institutions have taken advantage of the services of Escos.

For the Philippines, a large number of old buildings exist. Operators or owners of such buildings should be made aware of the services they can avail of from Escos.

Rather than use their own funds, they can take advantage of financing facilities for energy saving. It is estimated that there are about 20 old bank buildings that may be considered as good projects for an Esco.

### Advantages for the country

Companies in the electronics and semiconductor industry are good targets for Esco projects. The savings will contribute to their competitive advantage while concern for the environment provides a big sales advantage.

Rather than build additional power plants, let us conserve the energy we are capable of producing. Even utility costs can come down with proper application of energy efficiency. For example, the water utilities can save energy by utilizing motors that are designed and engineered to conserve energy for the particular application.

*(This article reflects the personal views of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and president of HMR-Labtech Enterprises Inc. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)*

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Passion

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*high power and unparalleled performance.*

*With the Corolla ALTIS, you definitely will get more than what you see.*

COROLLA
ALTIS

COROLLA
ALTIS

16 VALVE
VVT-i
ECT
P
R
N
3D
2
L

## Break into style

### *The VVT-i Engine*

*High power. High performance.*

*That's what the Corolla Altis' highly intelligent VVT-i Engine is all about. Feel its power surge as you weave through a busy city street with ease. Or enjoy the exhilarating rush as you drive at high speeds effortlessly. What's more, the VVT-i engine keeps fuel efficiency at a maximum and waste to a minimum resulting to better fuel burning and a more environment-friendly emission.*

### *The Gate-type Automatic Transmission Shift Lever*

*Performance driving requires control.*

*That is why the Corolla Altis has the special Gate-type Automatic Transmission Shift Lever. Take pleasure with the option to shift as it suits your driving mood. Coupled with the Super ECT, better response and smoother shift feeling are guaranteed bringing you right through the excitement and height of driving pleasure - smoothly, easily, and in style.*

### *The Optitron Meters*

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BUSINESS*Monday*

# Women invade 'macho' copper facility

THE FEMALE invasion of an industrial giant has begun.

At the Philippine Smelting and Refining Corp. (Pasar) in Isabel, Leyte, four new women engineers have taken over traditionally "man-size" supervisory positions for the first time in the history of Pasar, the country's lone copper smelter.

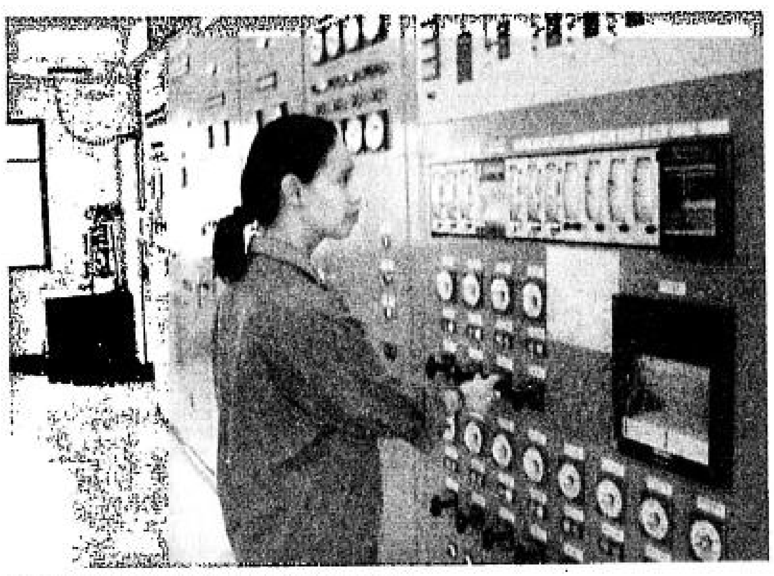
This is certainly a gender breakthrough for those who were relegated to rocking cradles and stirring cauldrons in the past. These women have succeeded in kicking the doors open to work side by side with the testosterone-field hunks in the once male-dominated industrial complex.

Jessica Libre, 22 years old, has recently been appointed supervisor of Pasar's Ancillary Department. "The Ancillary Department basically supports the Smelter," contends Jessica, a BS Electrical graduate last March 2001 at the University of San Jose-Recoletos (USJ-R) in Cebu City.

At the Acid Plant, she deals with smelting processes' product gases and convert then into usable sulfuric acid. With regard to waste weak acid, it is neutralized in the Waste Acid Neutralization Plant and Third Stage Neutralization Plant to ensure that the company's effluents are free from environmental hazards. And with Oxygen Plant, she deals with extremely cold gases in order to deliver high purity Oxygen to sustain good combustion in the Smelter.

Alma Milan, 23 years old, a 2001 cum laude graduate of Chemical Engineering from the University of San Carlos in Cebu City, is now Pasar's first lady supervisor of the Refinery-Tankhouse.

It is the facility where the Copper anodes are refined into Copper cathodes. It involves the electronic process of converting the 99.95-percent Copper anodes and starting sheets into 99.99 percent Copper cathodes. Specifically, Alma supervises the by-products plant in the refinery.



**PASAR** welcomes women executives

Lara Gay Sibayan, 25 years old, a 1998 graduate of Chemical Engineering from Ateneo de Davao University, is the first lady supervisor of the Copper Smelter at Pasar, the first step in the Copper refining process.

"Our area is the critical part of the plant's operations. It is the heart of smelting process. It is where the copper concentrates from the copper mines are smelted in temperatures exceeding 1,200 degree centigrade and magically turned into anode copper of 99.5-percent purity," claims Lara.

Hazel Lim, 26 years old, a board exam 1st Placer for Metallurgical Engineering in 1998 from the Mindanao State University Iligan Institute of Technology is manning a less daunting but highly technical position of Process Engineer at the Technical Services Division.

Jessica, Alma, Lara and Hazel are graduates of Pasar's Cadet Engineering program, a six-month intensive training course for fresh or new graduates of engineering. In April 2001, Pasar announced a nationwide search for the universities' top engineers who wish to join the talented pool of technical personnel at Pasar.

Of the 158 examinees, 15 were selected to join the course. After a rigid in-plant training, 11 were chosen to join Pasar including these outstanding lady engineers.

"At Pasar, we give equal opportunity to women to take over management positions in what was once a male-dominated plant," Carlos G. Dominguez, Pasar's chair and president.

Dominguez led Filipino investors in a consortium with Glencore, a huge Swiss conglomerate to buy Pasar from the government last 1999. The new owner, Pasar Holdings, has been instating massive human resource and technological development investments.

Since its privatization, Pasar has displayed exemplary world-class industrial practices. A standout in the management reforms is an impressive human resource development program, including the Cadet Engineering program.

"We are proud of the graduates of this program. They underwent a rigid screening process. And an even more challenging training program which brought about the best young engineers a company can ever have," Dindo

WOMEN/D5

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# Put employees' welfare first and see company profits grow

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MANAGEMENT STYLES

THE JOHNSON and Johnson group of companies has laid down a corporate philosophy that puts the customer first in each of its businesses—from consumer products to pharmaceuticals and medical devices.

Bayani R. Santos Jr., managing director of Johnson and Johnson Medical Philippines, adopts the same attitude in managing his people, but in his case he puts his 64 employees and their welfare first.

The 54-year-old Santos explains that in helping the employees get the best training and challenges to keep them on their toes, they would respond positively and ultimately perform better for the welfare of the company.

He knows how important these factors are because he started out in the J & J group as a marketing manager in 1986.

"I lead from the position of experience so one of my advantages is that I am able to share the experience that I gathered through time. I can show them that I can do the dirty job because I know the business. I came from the ranks," Santos says in an interview.

A political science graduate of the University of the East, Santos started his career as med rep for Mead Johnson. He left the company after 16 years with a rank of of sales manager handling the antibiotic line of Bristol.

He moved to Sealag, one of the pharmaceutical companies of J & J.

In 1988, he left for the United States for a one-year management training and in 1990, he was promoted to head of the medical devices.

He says his role as managing director is to keep his people motivated since the company is primarily a sales and marketing organization.

One of its latest products is the Cypher Sirolimus-eluting Stent, which provides a longer-term solution for coronary artery disease by preventing the closure of narrowed coronary arteries.

SANTOS

The medical devices group represents about 38 percent of Johnson and Johnson's global sales although it is not as well known in the country as the consumer division, which actually accounts for only about 20 percent of J & J's business. The remaining 40 percent comes from the pharmaceutical group.

He says he tries to motivate his sales force to continue bringing in sales to the company by laying out a career growth for the employees, putting challenges along the way and making them realize that they are at the forefront of technology.

"I always tell the people that their career growth is not limited to the Philippines. We have offices outside the Philippines so if they do well they can be assigned abroad. We also send them to training to the United States. So if they are looking for a career then this is the place for them," Santos says.

"My challenge now is to deploy the technologies that we have under the group. I should help the people strike a balance between selling and helping the doctors see the value of our products to the patients," Santos says.

"Our competent and aggressive sales team is motivated because they are excited about these challenges," he says.

Santos says his desire to rise up to a challenge was the main reason behind his climb from medical representative to managing director.

"I have always found satisfaction in being able to hurdle challenges. It is not easy but it is exciting," Santos says.

## *Japanese women seek job satisfaction in the air*

TOKYO—Many people stuck in Tokyo over the sweltering summer dream of flinging on a pair of shorts, and jumping on a plane headed for a breezy beach or mountain resort.

Akie Shimada dreams of dressing in a sober skirt suit and taking charge of the plane's drinks trolley.

A final year university student, 21-year-old Shimada is among tens of thousands of highly educated young Japanese women whose career goal is not to make millions or beat a path to a company boardroom but to work as a flight attendant.

"I took a trip on a plane when I was in high school and the stewardesses were very beautiful. I wanted to wear a cool uniform and travel abroad like them," Shimada said during a break from a pre-interview training course.

The sexism that rules in many Japanese companies was another reason why she opted for a career that still spells glamour in Japan, if not elsewhere.

After six months of evening classes at the Amiair flight attendant school in Tokyo, where she learnt everything from English conversation to the best way to smile, Shimada was waiting to hear how she had done in an interview with Japan Airlines (JAL).

Forking out hundreds of thousands of yen (thousands of dollars) for pre-interview training is a matter of course for would-be flight attendants. Some go to even greater lengths, such as having their teeth straightened to improve their chances.

JAL, the country's biggest airline, had almost 14,000 applications for 370 positions offered last year and rival ANA had 23,000 for 720 positions.

A successful application can give a Japanese woman an aura of superiority that will last for the rest of her life.

"Becoming a stewardess is like being awarded a medal," said Takiko Nakano, editor in chief of Air Stage, a glossy magazine that caters to would-be flight attendants, citing the example of a 70-year-old acquaintance who is often introduced as a former flight attendant even though her career ended 40 years ago. *Reuters*

# Four questions to ask before you open your own restaurant

AS ANY successful entrepreneur will tell you, a businessman who fails to plan, plans to fail.

To get your business off to a running start, and to prove to potential investors that you understand your market as well as your own strengths and weaknesses, you must write a clear statement of what you intend to accomplish. Think of it as a map designed to keep you headed in the right direction.

These are essentially what Ramon Pimentel, a marketing man and restaurateur, tucks in his business portfolio ever since he arrived in the country in 1998. He spent 15 years in California where he opened several restaurant outlets.

He was also responsible for laying the foundation of several food establishments in Manila—the Chef and Brewer at the ground floor of AIC Tower along Emerald Ave., and the Caleb's Soul & Pepper Place along Meralco Ave. He was the chief operating officer successively.

When he left for the United States in 1983, he was armed with a degree in Commerce from De La Salle College, Kingsgrove and St. George Tech in New South Wales, Australia.

Since he had no local experience in the United States, he landed in a company where nobody asked for his resumé nor his work experience. The said firm was engaged in the wholesale and retail of desserts, supplying different outlets in San Francisco.

He virtually started from the bottom—doing errands, deliveries and as a kitchen trainee under the company's pastry chefs.

His patience paid off, because two years later, he decided to buy out the company and operated it with his wife Grace. Eventually, the production increased, the clientele expanded especially in the bay area and they even got bigger accounts. He added some grocery items and put up a coffee shop on the side.

As it grew, he was unaware that he had already developed a powerful business tool that he would soon apply in his next ventures.

After 11 years, the competition also grew so he decided to make a career move and sold the company. He joined the US office of RFM as its country manager for North America and true enough, he experienced more things, which increased his knowledge in management, western style and in

FOUR/D4

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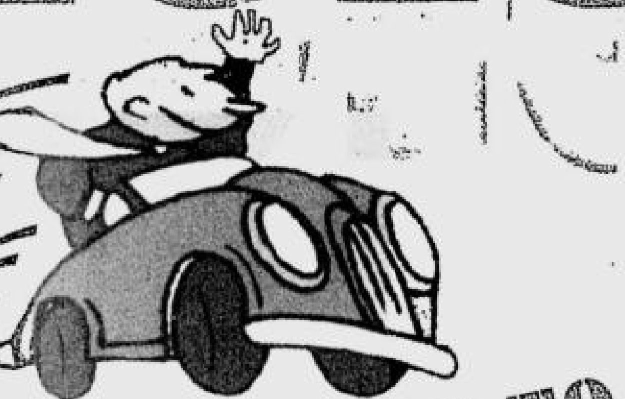


# Looking into the local petrochemical industry

SENIOR economic ministers from the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta) will hold a meeting on Sept. 11 in Brunei to discuss the implementation of tariff reductions on industrial and agricultural goods entering the country from member countries starting Jan. 1, 2003.

Local resins producers under the Association of Petrochemical Manufacturers of the Philippines (APMP) are among the prime movers in efforts to sway the government to defer or reconsider the tariff programs under the Afta-Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT).

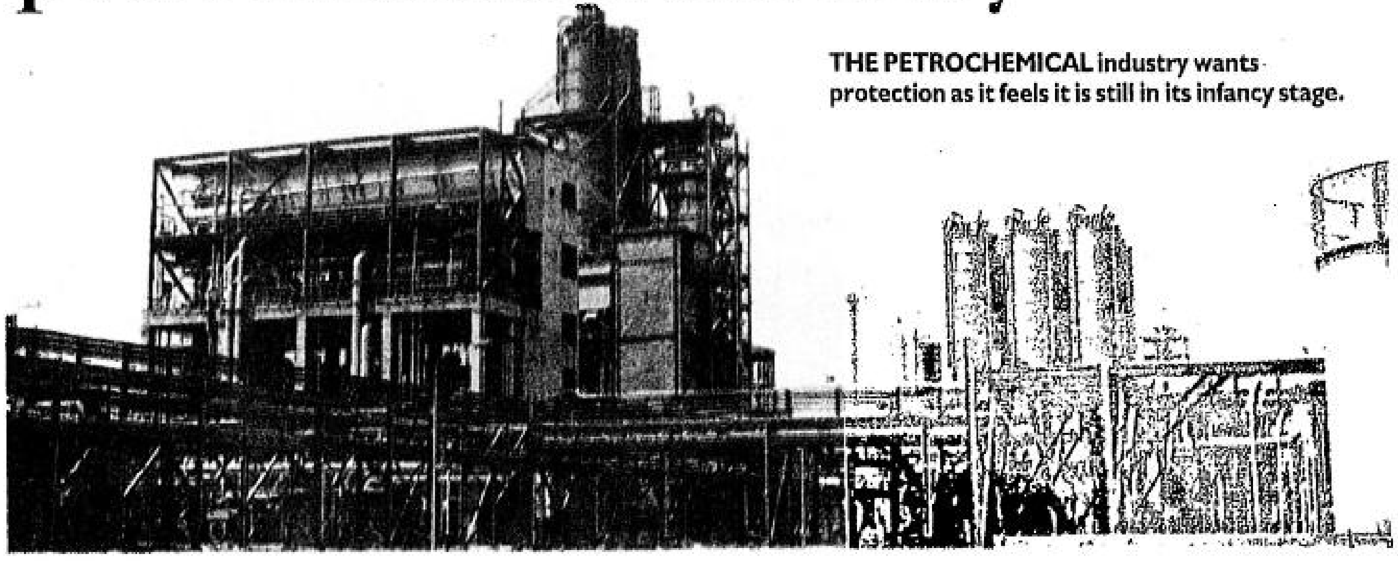
They petitioned the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to delay the 5-percent Afta tariff commitment and maintain the 15-percent tariff protection, since their operations are still in an infancy stage.

This industry started in the late 1998 compared with some Asean members, which have started theirs some 20 years ago.

The petrochemical industry needs to in the same way that the other countries did.

Benefits from the industry include: foreign exchange savings of $70 million to $100 million a year; investments of P50 billion over the past five years; P250 million in taxes paid per year to the local and national governments.

LOOKING/D4



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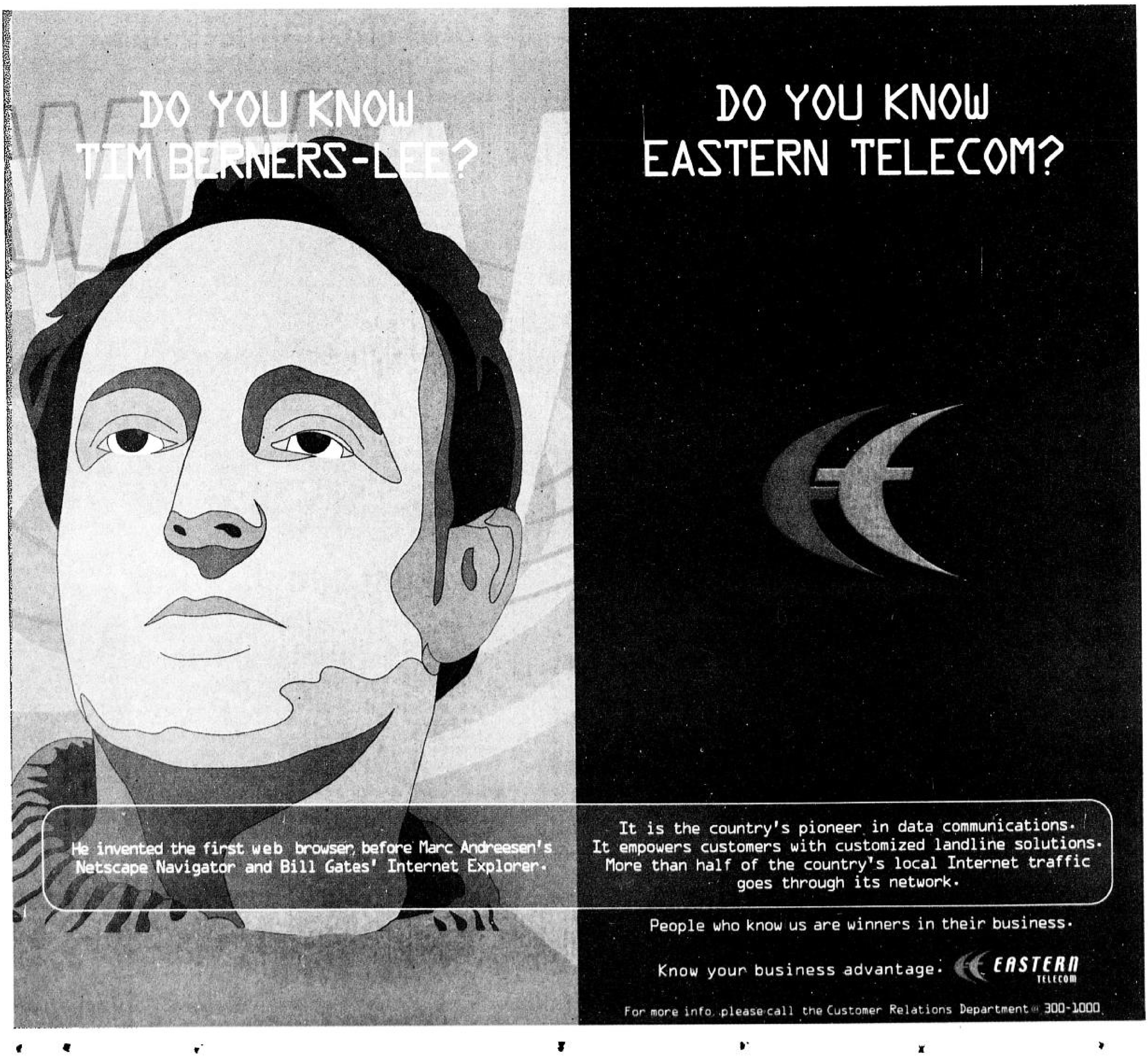
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**HSBC senior vice president for personal financial services Peter Yaetes with Michael Tan and Claire Yap**

**PAL executive vice president-commercial group and executive assistant to the chair and CEO Henry So Uy and HSBC senior vice president for marketing James Benoit**

# Mabuhay Miles perks up frequent fliers

BUSINESSMEN and celebrities who are frequent fliers of Philippine Airlines were the first to be presented with Philippine Airlines' new frequent flier program, the Mabuhay Miles.

Like most frequent flier programs, the Mabuhay Miles also offers rewards and privileges for frequent PAL travelers.

"Our new program is structured to better match the needs of our members," notes Joy Lynn M. Pasiliao, PAL assistant vice president for Products.

The launch came after two years of preparation, where passengers' inputs, industry trends and the latest technological advances were considered and incorporated into the new program's terms and conditions.

Gracing the launch were program partners HSBC headed by its CEO Paul Lawrence, senior vice president for personal financial service Peter Yaetes and James Benoit, senior vice president for marketing.

HSBC gives travelers another rewarding opportunity to earn more miles faster. The Mabuhay Miles Visa from HSBC allows card holders to earn bonus points for all their card spend, including gas, groceries and medicine. Every P45 charged to the card earns one bonus point, equivalent to 1 mile.

Adding color to the evening's affair were host Donita Rose, sultry singer Vernie Varga and talented tenors Nolin Cabahug, Robert Sena and Lemuel de la Cruz.

**PARTNERSHIP: HSBC president Paul Lawrence (left) and PAL president Avelino Zapanta**

**TONY Gonzalez, Francis Lumen and Vicente Carlos**

**BENIGNO Ricafort, Arsenio Bartolome, Renato Magadia and HSBC president Paul Lawrence**

# Four questions to ask . . .

From page D2

dealing with different clients, its weaknesses and strengths.

Ramon and Grace came back to the country in 1998 to attend Ramon's mom's 80th birthday who passed away two months after. He decided to stay. A friend, Jackie Boncan, gave him the opportunity to join Vincent's at Jupiter and at Shangri-La in Mandaluyong where he became its chief operating officer.

The place was picking up again, but some hitches prevailed along the way. Vincent's eventually closed.

He opened Chef & Brewer, owned by two young friends, who, up to now, maintain the framework Ramon established. Revenues at Chef & Brewer surpassed the expected daily gross income. This has brought Ramon a lot of satisfaction who says the thought of it is very rewarding.

He feels bad when the framework he started goes astray, when his plans are not strictly followed. People around him are one in saying that it is Ramon's expertise at the planning stage that an investor should give serious thought to because it is what will save them from a lot of grief later.

Quite odd, but while other investors opt for frenzied places to put outlets in, Ramon is challenged to settle for a quiet and not-so-crowded place. "I want a place where successful people congregate, enjoying the finer things in life, a place where they will not only be transients, but habitues," he says.

"Many business plans are filled with a lot of jargon, but basically there are just four questions you need to ask before you put it all together," Ramon explains.

They are:

1) What is your service or product and how does it work?

2) Who are your customers and how you will beat your competition?

3) How much income will you need to meet your expenses and turn a profit?

4) Why are you uniquely qualified to run this? In addition, make a list of your business goals, draw up a timetable, and price your merchandise and/or service based on your time and your target market.

As head of the International F & B Consultants located at the 10th floor of AIC Gold Tower, he believes that Filipinos can be good workers given the proper guidance and training and can compete with the international standards.

His dream is to help investors operate a 100 percent Filipino-owned chain of restaurants that will be No. 1 not only in the Philippines but also in Asia. And that, he says, can be achieved with a strong foundation that will be properly implemented, coupled with wisdom and grace from the greatest planner and orchestrator of all time.

# Looking into the local . . .

From page D3

Also, employment opportunities for 5,000 Filipinos with annual expenditures for salaries and local services of half a billion pesos a year; potential to deploy further investments of P50 billion to P75 billion in backward and forward integration projects.

While the resin industry seeks for the deferment of the program under AftaCEPT, it is also asking the government to raise to 30 percent the 15-percent tariff being imposed against non-Afta countries.

An accelerated tariff reduction program for non-Afta members or those belonging to the so-called most favored nations (MFN) will be implemented in 2004. Like in the Afta-CEPT agreement, the commitment to MFN entails the reduction of tariff rates to 0-5 percent.

It happens when the local industry is in dire need of protection that other countries had applied to their own when they were yet at their infancy stage.

Protective tariff rates applied by other countries were even higher ranging from 25 percent to 40 percent. Korea raised its protective tariff rates to 40 percent for 20 years when its own industry was starting in 1960s.

Thailand also applied the same rate (with 20 plus years of duration) when its industry started in the early '70s. Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, and China had 30 percent each plus a surcharge for Indonesia.

Other countries had even used other levies in protecting their own industries. A 1999 research on the Plastics Industry of India made by Industry Canada, showed that resins and plastic products in India were subject to various duties.

These were: import duty-30 percent; special duty-5 percent; excise duty-25 percent; and special additional duty-4 percent, that all in all translates to an effective duty of over 75 percent.

The biggest consideration should be the competitiveness of the industry. Based on a research conducted first quarter of 2002, the local prices of resins are lower than the imported variety. For the year 2001, imported resins cost $496/ton while local resins was at $494/ton. In the year 2000, imported resins were at $701/ton versus the local variety at $635/ton. In 1999, the imports cost $576/ton compared with $530/ton for the local product.

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# Women invade 'macho' copper facility

From page D1

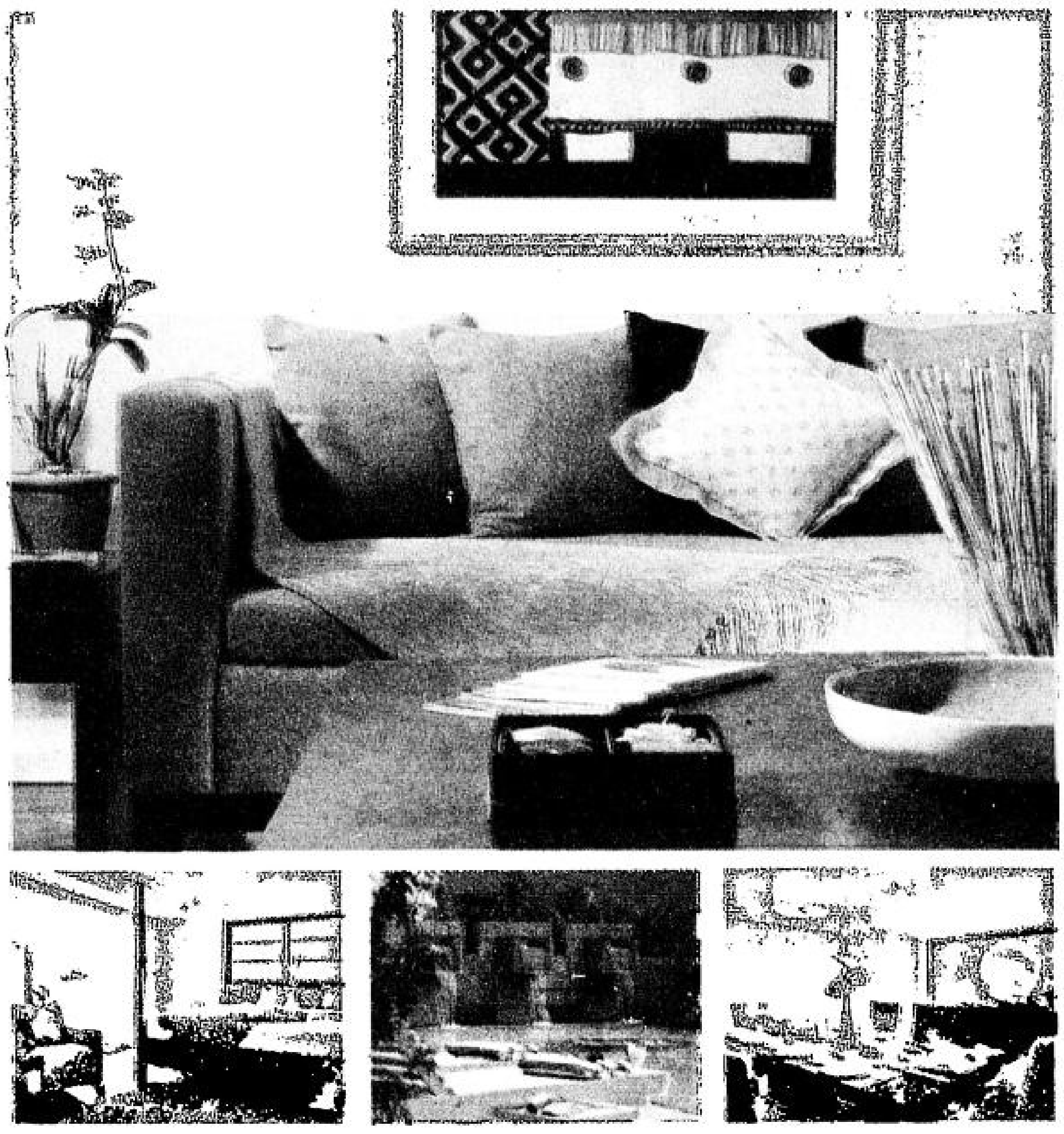
Malazarte, vice president for production, said.

Pasar's ODT department, headed by its energetic Senior Manager Malou Concepcion, has supervised the program from start to finish to ensure that the graduates will be capable of doing an excellent job in Operations.

Women only account for 9 percent of the total work force at Pasar. Of the supervisory and managerial positions, only 64 out of 273 are held by women, most of which are administrative in nature. "It is a great development that talented and spunky lady engineers have bested their male aspirants for critical supervisory positions," Ricardo Santiago, senior vice president for human resource development and plant administration, said.

Being a lady boss in a macho work environment can be a tall task to overcome. How did Jessica, Alma and Lara handle this? Common decency, which is plain and simple enough, but nowadays, it could be quite uncommon, they would all chorus.

"If you respect them (the men), they will respect you," Jessica proclaims.



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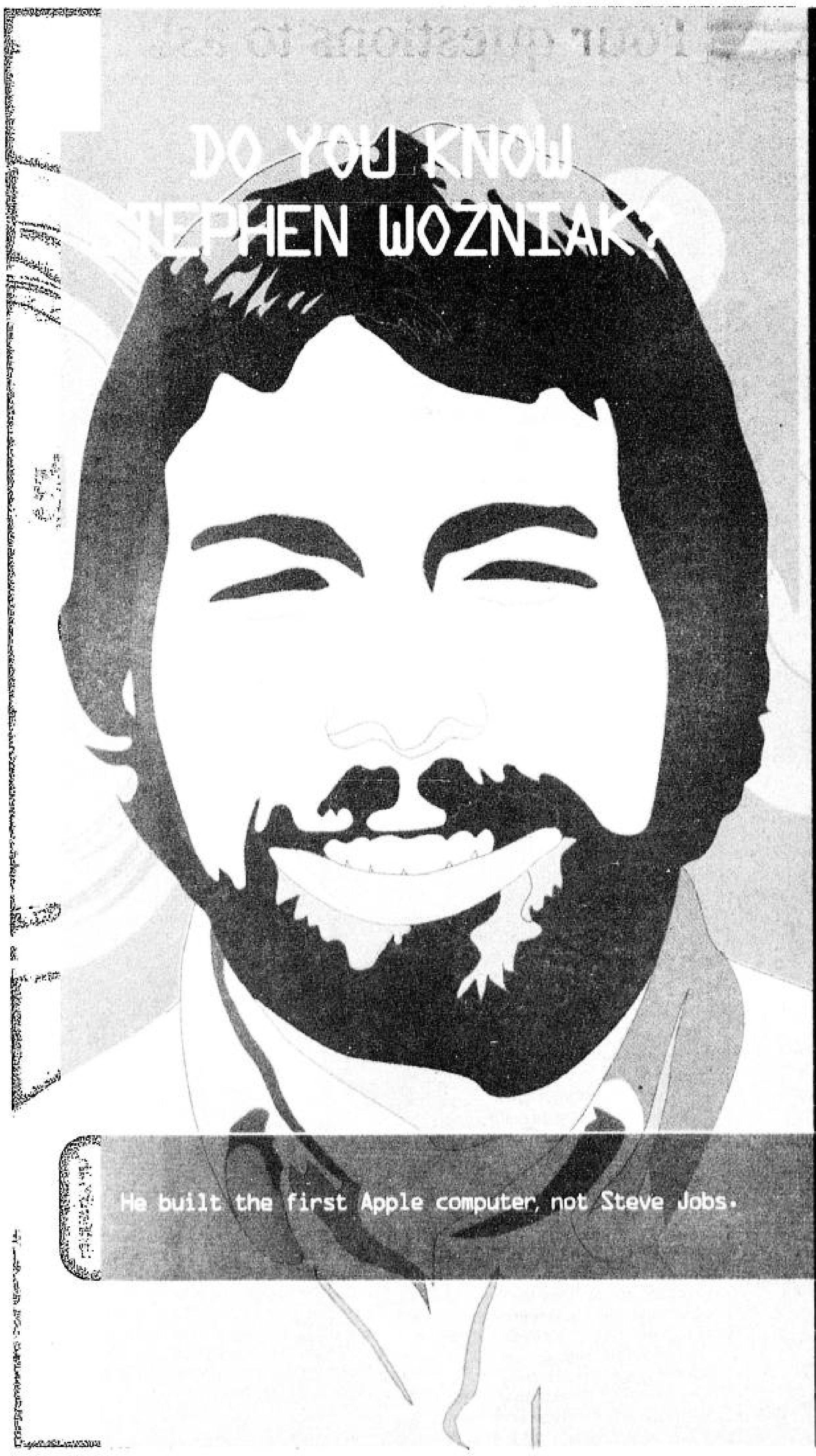
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# Mores, on its 25 year, holds research congress

THE MARKETING and Opinion Research Society of the Philippines (Mores) will be holding the Research Congress from Oct. 2-4 at the Holiday Inn Resort Clark. This year, Mores is also celebrating its 25th Anniversary. Marketing, advertising and research practitioners will attend the three-day congress from the country's top companies, advertising and research agencies.

The theme for this year's congress is "Discover the Silver Lining." Envisioned to serve as the industry's fitting response to the current economic situation, the event will be highlighted by a series of insightful and relevant topics that have been carefully outlined to ensure a truly interactive discussion. Interesting topics include "Using Market Intelligence to Carve New Niches", "Routes to Reinvention and Sustained Growth", "What Comes After Afta? Philippines Fearless Forecasts", "Learning from the Mistakes of the Past and What to Expect from the Future", "The Philippine Social Climate. The State of Market and Opinion Research in the Philippines," "A Legacy for the Future", and "Researchers' Core Values Revisited."

Among the invited distinguished speakers are professor Eduardo L. Roberto PhD of AIM and Coca-Cola Export, and Florian A. Alburo PhD of the Center for Internet Studies, Institute for International Policy, University of Washington.

Roberto is the Coca-Cola Foundation Professor in International Marketing. He is on the Institute's research faculty and was formally a core faculty member of the Master in Business Management Program. His teaching and research areas of interest include basic marketing research, social marketing research, and consumer behavior. He has also taught at the Northwestern University's Kellogg Graduate School Management and the Euro-Asia Centre of Insead.

He is the chair and president of Roberto and Associates Inc., a marketing research and consulting agency, and sits on the board of directors of several corporations. He is on the editorial board of the International Journal of Research in Marketing. He was the 1985 president and the recipient of the Philippine Marketing Association Agora for Achievement in Marketing Education in 1983. Professor Ned has authored seven research books that had greatly contributed in the field of marketing research and the marketing profession.

Alburo is presently a Fellow at the Center for Internet Studies, Institute for International Policy at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington, and professor of Economics, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. He is the Asia Program director of the International Center for Economic Growth in San Francisco, California and member of the advisory committee of the Asean Economic Research Unit of Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore. He was recently the consultant and team leader of the Asia Recovery Information Center of the Asian Development Bank, managing its multi-awarded web site.

## AUTOMATIC CENTRE REOPENS IN ARANETA

Judy Araneta Roxas and Benito Lim (chair of Automatic Centre) cut the ribbon to celebrate the recent reopening of the Araneta Center branch of Automatic Centre. Witnessing the ceremony are (first row, from left) Teofilo Asuncion Jr. (president, Araneta Center Inc), Samie Lim (president, Automatic Centre), and Elena Lim (chief finance officer, Automatic Centre). At the back row, from left, are Tony Mardo (EVP, Araneta Center), Lorna Fabian of the leasing department of Araneta Center (partly hidden), and Chari Araneta (leasing manager, Araneta Center).

## SEMINAR SERIES SPONSORS SIGN MOA

The Aurelio Periquet Jr. Foundation held a MOA signing with its sponsors for the Leaders Unlimited: APJ Business Leadership Seminar Series which will be held in 10 universities and colleges in Metro Manila from July to October this year. The seminar series will bring the country's most respected business leaders in lectures and workshops in the campus setting to share their views and expertise with the young business leaders of tomorrow. This knowledge transfer from established business leaders to future businessmen and entrepreneurs is one of the missions of the APJ Foundation and PLDT Leadership Circle. Shown are (from left) Mitch Pellicer, vice president, Lupel Marketing, distributor of Uni writing instruments, major sponsor, Butch Jimenez, vice president for media and corporate affairs, PLDT, presentor, Anna Marie K. Periquet, president, APJ Foundation, Neil Palabrica, associate publisher of Entrepreneur Philippines, major sponsor, and Richard King The, president, Avery Office Products, major sponsor.

## NAI EXECS CALL ON PLDT PRESIDENT

Executives from leading security solutions company Network Associates (NAI) with executives from PLDT's information and communication technology (ICT) arm ePLDT paid a courtesy call on PLDT president and chief executive officer Manuel V. Pangilinan (6th from left). They are, from left, Erville D. Magtubo, ePLDT alliance and channels manager, Bombit Pascual, NAI business manager, Eugene F. Garcia, PLDT chief information officer, Ang Mia Boon, NAI president for the Asia-Pacific, George Samenuk, NAI chair and chief executive officer, Lee Boon Kuey, NAI managing director for Southeast Asia and India, Ariel A. Roda, ePLDT managing director, Emmanuel P. Dizon, ePLDT chief technology officer, and Manuel G. Bausa Jr.; ePLDT data security group manager.

## PALMS GETS SPECIAL PRIVILEGE AT AHMC

Asian Hospital and Medical Center chief operating officer Alma Jimenez and The Palms Country Club manager Graham Kiy shake hands to formally seal the agreement for Palms members to receive discounts for in-patient or emergency room services at the AHMC. The Palms Country Club is a world-class facility located in Filinvest Alabang. Witnessing the ceremony are (from left) AHMC director for sales and external affairs Kenny Cruz, AHMC vice president for ancillary services Ester Romano, and The Palms Country Club PR and activities manager Michelle Tuason.

## SAGA HAIR SALON'S 2ND

Saga Hair Salon recently unveiled its 2nd branch at Banawe corner Retiro, Quezon City. Present during the opening rites are Saga's loyal clients Ricky Davao, Rudy Fernandez and Lorna Tolentino. Saga Hair Salon, where true beauty is rediscovered, boasts of comfy interiors, top-of-the-line equipment and products coupled by friendly, well-trained staff who are always updated in the latest buzz in hair and beauty trends. For more details and for reservations, visit Saga Hair Salon at the ground floor One Spa and Fitness Center, 639 Banawe corner NS Amoranto Street (formerly Retiro), Quezon City, or call 731-2616 or 732-2142. Saga Hair Salon is also located at the ground floor of the Premier City Club Building, 19 to 21 1st Street, New Manila, Quezon City, with telephone numbers 727-9863 or 0917-5323322.

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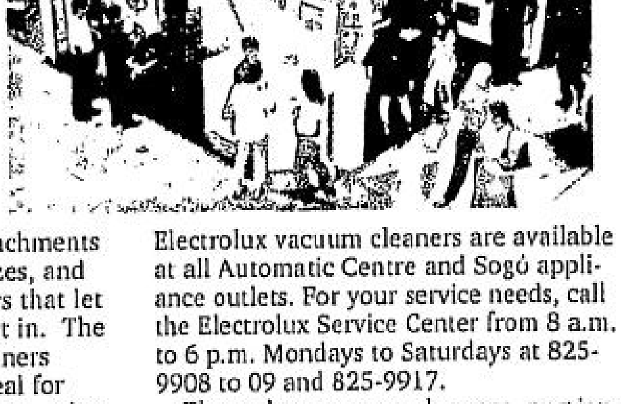
Product FILES

## Veering away from brooms, dustpans

SINCE vacuum cleaners were invented in the mid-19th century, people have been expecting breakthrough after breakthrough in cleaning technologies. Ironically, in this high-tech age, some households are still cleaned by brooms and dustpans. Today, vacuum cleaners have become more accessible to the popular market. And with better, more convenient features, they have become the first choice for cleaning chores in many households.

The simplest vacuum cleaners have long, flexible hoses, wheels and rollers for easy maneuverability, fans and motors with good speed for greater suction of dirt, attachments for varying dirt shapes and sizes, and dust bags which work as filters that let air pass through but keeps dirt in. The more "high-tech" vacuum cleaners feature height adjustments ideal for cleaning carpets and hard floors, a bag full indicator that tells you when to replace dust bags, disposable dust bags, a super silent feature so you can clean anytime of the day, and modern sizes, shapes, and designs to fit the style of your own homes.

All of these features are carried by the Electrolux vacuum cleaners. Electrolux vacuum cleaners help you clean fast and easy with the greatest efficiency.



Electrolux vacuum cleaners are available at all Automatic Centre and Sogó appliance outlets. For your service needs, call the Electrolux Service Center from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays at 825-9908 to 09 and 825-9917.

Electrolux vacuum cleaners, particularly the Clario Z2020 and Oxygen Z5628, are on display at the Automatic Centre's ongoing September Lifestyle appliance exhibit in Alabang Town Centre.

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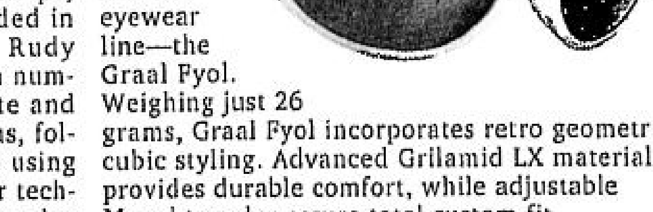
Product FILES

## Graal Fyol's fluid design



Rudy Project, the hottest eyewear line in Europe, is taking the Philippines by storm. Founded in 1985 by Italian eyewear specialist Rudy Barbazza, Rudy Project has incorporated a number of designs to suit an individual's taste and choice of outdoor activity. All models, thus, follow the Italian tradition of craftsmanship using science, advanced materials and computer technology to produce aesthetically superior products. All models also come in a variety of colors, interchangeable lenses, all of which provide 100-percent UV protection.

In keeping with the tradition of performance, total comfort and fluid design is Rudy Project's newest eyewear line—the Graal Fyol. Weighing just 26 grams, Graal Fyol incorporates retro geometric cubic styling. Advanced Grilamid LX material provides durable comfort, while adjustable Megol temples assure total custom fit.

Graal frames come in a variety of colors: sunset orange, metal blue, metal brown, silver black gloss and metal red. The Rudy Project elastic strap can also be used with Graal Fyol during fast movements.

A must-have guide for owners/managers and employees of small establishments

PRACTICAL GUIDELINES IN EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

Forms to Use

- ✓ EASY TO READ
- ✓ QUICK TIPS
- ✓ ACTUAL FORMS

RAMON T. JIMENEZ

## MUST-READ FOR SMEs

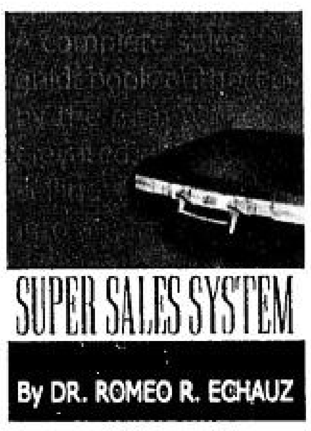
**RAMON T. JIMENEZ, a labor and industrial relations practitioner, has come up with Practical Guidelines in Employee Relations, a must-read for SME owners. The book provides a guide to labor standards and welfare legislation and labor relation laws as they affect organizations using language for non-lawyers.**

**The book even includes sample forms needed by workers to organize, register and seek recognition for their union as a bargaining representative in their CBA negotiaions.**

**It also has forms employers need to promote employee discipline, individual employee termination or mass layoff, in case of financial reverses, along with forms to apply for tax exemptions of separation benefits from the BIR.**

*Available at Powerbooks and National Bookstore.*

# Salesmen ring thrice


SUPER SALES SYSTEM
By DR. ROMEO R. ECHAUZ

IF THE POSTMAN always rings twice, the salesman rings not only twice but thrice, and maybe even more times.

That, in essence, is what a good salesman does, according to Romeo Rosales-Echauz.

A good salesman does not give up, says Echauz, whose success in varied fields as law, insurance, real estate, academe and banking, is the result of over 50 years in the art of selling. "In salesmanship, the true winners are those who never quit," he says.

Echauz has come out with an updated reprint of a how-to manual on salesmanship which he wrote back in the '40s. Titled "Super Sales System," it is such a treasure trove of how to succeed in selling.

A graduate of Manila Law College, he became chair of Filipinas Bank and Trust Co. (1966-78); chair and president, Standard Insurance Co. Inc. (until 1958); president, Cardinal Life Insurance Co. (1965-77); president, Midland Insurance Corp. (19653-87); director, Hotel Enterprises of the Philippines, owners of Hyatt Regency Hotel (1971).

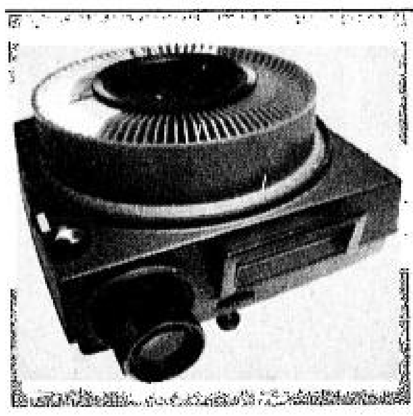
He has now passed on the running of his businesses to his children, preferring to devote his time to promoting and developing Filipinas Paradise Complex, the family-owned subdivision in Naic, Cavite, as a second home and retirement destination for Filipinos, returning balikbayan and foreigners alike.

The principles Echauz enunciates appear to be universally applicable and ageless. His book is a directional map of how to clinch a sale from even before you step inside a prospect's door to the moment you get his order—and how you can continue to nail down more orders from your client. His formula for achieving this consists of what he calls the "Three Ps," namely: Personal qualities which you must develop; Prospects whom you must understand; and Preparedness which you should exercise.

In the book, he spells out in great detail the techniques to employ in concocting the formula, summarizing it all in his "23 Principles of Salesmanship," that include:

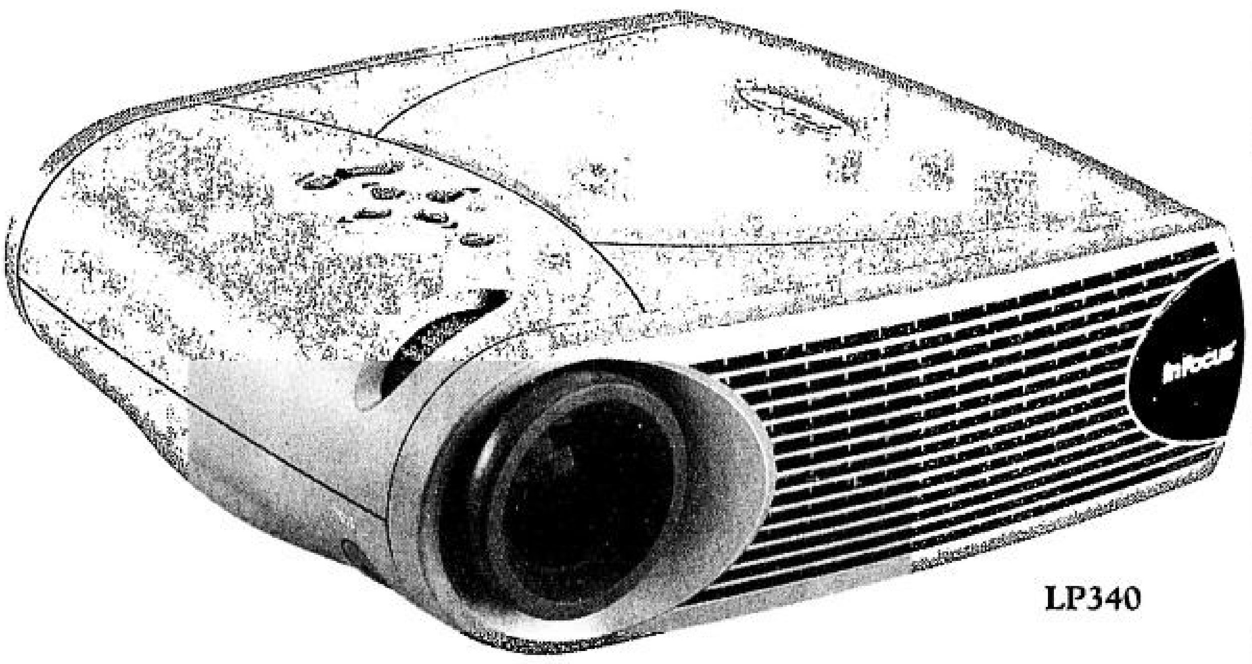
1. Service is the keynote of salesmanship.
2. Safeguard the customer's confidence.
3. Classify and qualify every prospect.
4. Make a pleasing impression and win confidence quickly.
5. Get attention through curiosity and obligation.

The last word belongs to Echauz: "Always remember that salesmanship can indeed be developed. The question now remains, 'What are you waiting for?'" *(For inquiries, call tel. no. 523-5233.)* *Annele T. Nicholas*


Adiós

Sayonara

Good-bye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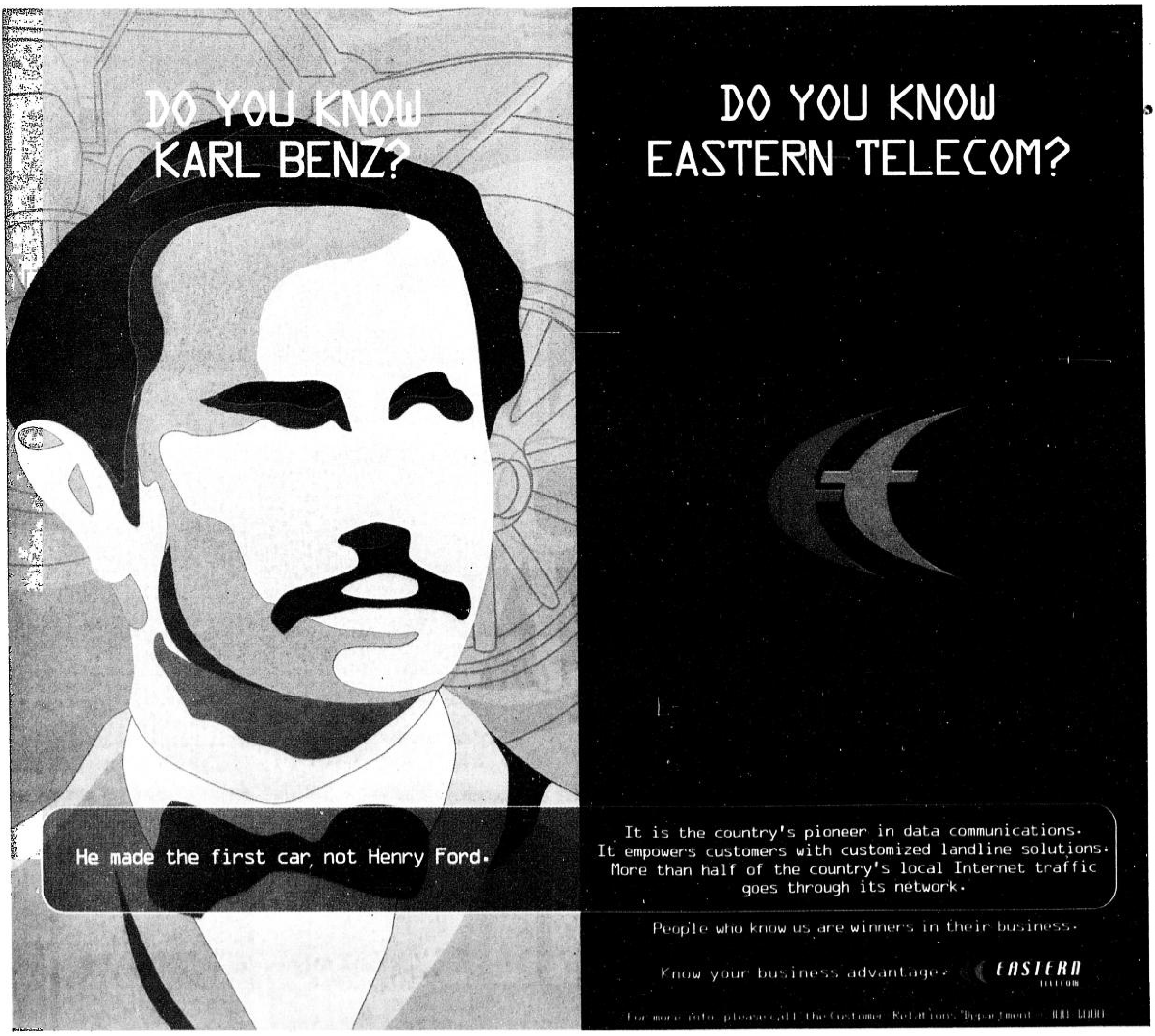
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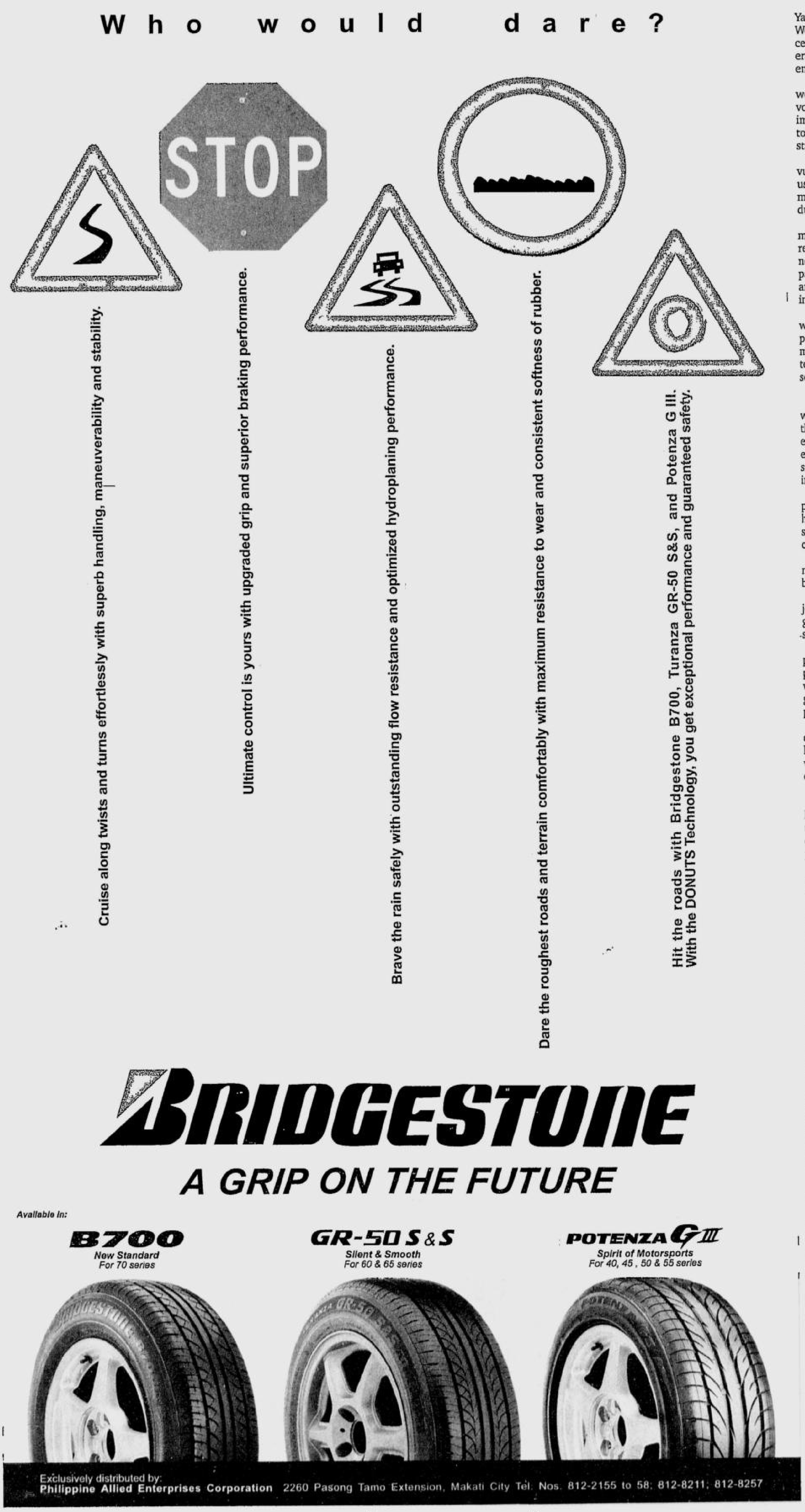
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

# Women hold key to coping with globalization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THE BEST way for the country to cope with globalization is to harness the economic potential of women.

This was the message shared by Myrna T. Yao, president of the National Council of Women of the Philippines (NCWP), in a recent forum on "Globalization and Trade Liberalization: Impact and Responses on Women" in Acapulco, Mexico.

Yao stressed in her presentation before women's groups that women need to be involved because they are not exempt from the impact of the opening up of domestic markets to foreign investors with minimum or no state supervision.

On many occasions, women are even more vulnerable than men because women are usually the first to go when a company implements job cuts, plus they are saddled with the duty to take care of the family.

"Business establishments regard women as more flexible in the sense that they are easily recruited and more easily dismissed when needed; they are vulnerable to temporary, part-time work without proper agreements; and, they are paid less if they are young and inexperienced," Yao stated in her speech.

Forced by economic circumstances, more women have searched for better earning opportunities outside the country, although most of them end up in vulnerable, unprotected and unregulated occupations in the service industry.

### Vulnerable

"It is women in rural and agricultural areas who are most affected by globalization. Although globalization resulted in many women gaining employment in the export-oriented manufacturing sector, many women are still found in rural farming communities and in subsistence economic activities," she said.

Yao added that there are many avenues proposed by government and civil society to help women cope with globalization, but she suggested economic empowerment as a concrete step to achieve this goal.

"As a developing country, the Philippines may not be totally prepared for globalization but survival is inevitable," she said.

The key to survival may very well lie in the joint initiative between the government, non-government organizations and the business sector.

"This new framework is holistic in approach. Each entity is required to actively play its role. NCWP is aware that in order for women micro entrepreneurs to cope with globalization, support mechanisms must be provided," she said.

One of these is the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the NCWP and the local government units, wherein the LGUs were required to create local councils of women in the provincial, city and municipal levels.

### Grassroots

"These local councils of women will definitely empower the grassroots women and deliver the micro enterprise and micro finance. Women entrepreneurs are expected to gain access to productive resources," she said.

The business sector, on the other hand, was tapped to provide marketing support to women entrepreneurs.

The NCWP partnership with the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Business and Professional Group paved the way for the marketing of quality products of micro entrepreneurs through the Philippine Livelihood and Marketing Corp.

Even the banks are being asked to join in the effort to help women entrepreneurs by providing loan assistance to qualified micro enterprises.

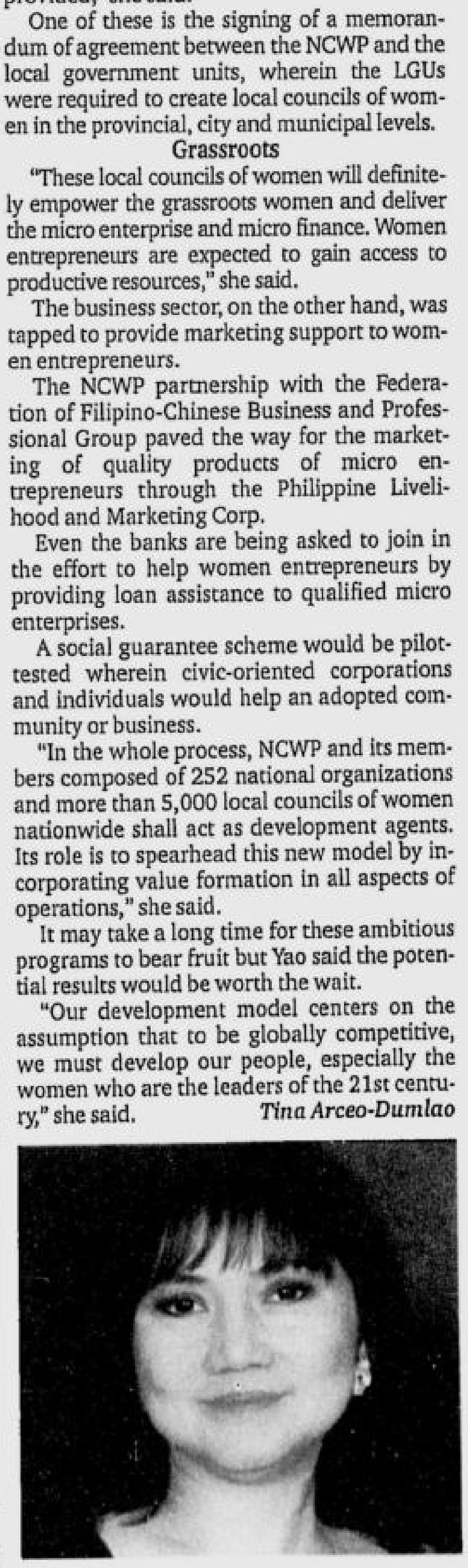
A social guarantee scheme would be pilot-tested wherein civic-oriented corporations and individuals would help an adopted community or business.

"In the whole process, NCWP and its members composed of 252 national organizations and more than 5,000 local councils of women nationwide shall act as development agents. Its role is to spearhead this new model by incorporating value formation in all aspects of operations," she said.

It may take a long time for these ambitious programs to bear fruit but Yao said the potential results would be worth the wait.

"Our development model centers on the assumption that to be globally competitive, we must develop our people, especially the women who are the leaders of the 21st century," she said.

*Tina Arceo-Dumlao*


YAO

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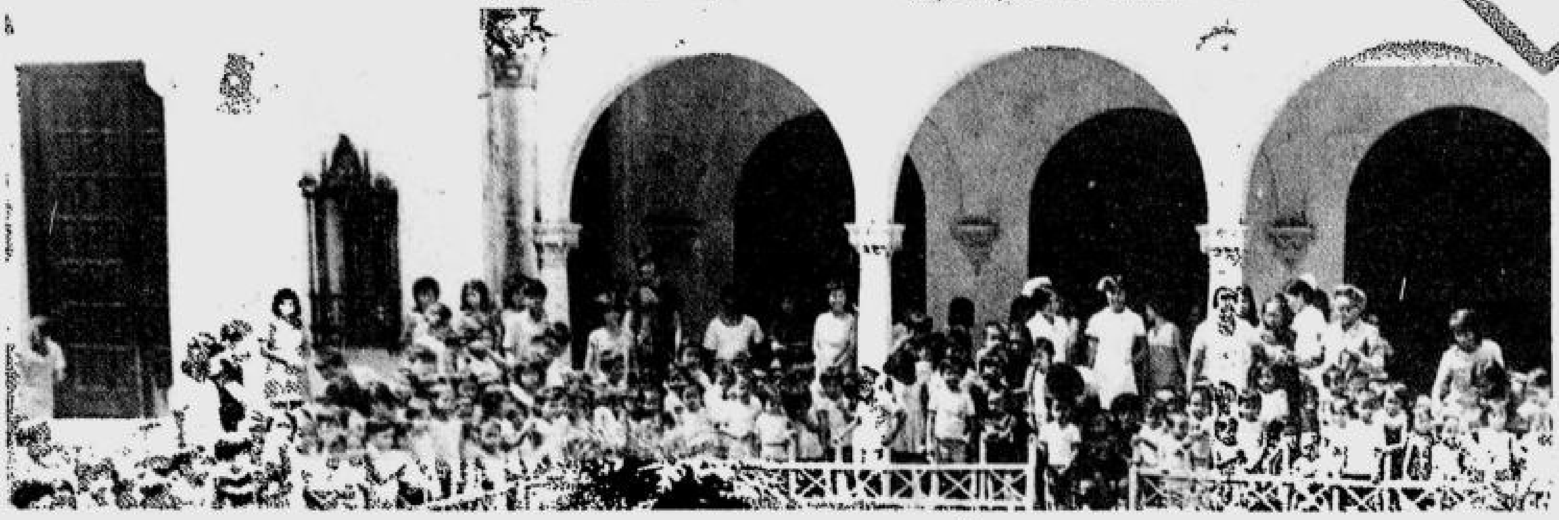
LIFESTYLE

Arts Design

Editor Chelo Bañal-Formoso ◎ Subsection Editor Lito B. Zulueta

Goodness CANADA
Toothbrush

DOCTORS, nurses and their child patients gather in front of the arcaded portico of the old Gota de Leche building for a Christmas party in the 1950s.



# Grateful drop of milk, memory and history

Story on page E4

PHOTOS:COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS

> 'In restoring the old Gota de Leche building in Sampaloc, I reconnect with my grandfather, José Fabella, and a heritage of beautiful architecture and beautiful charity'

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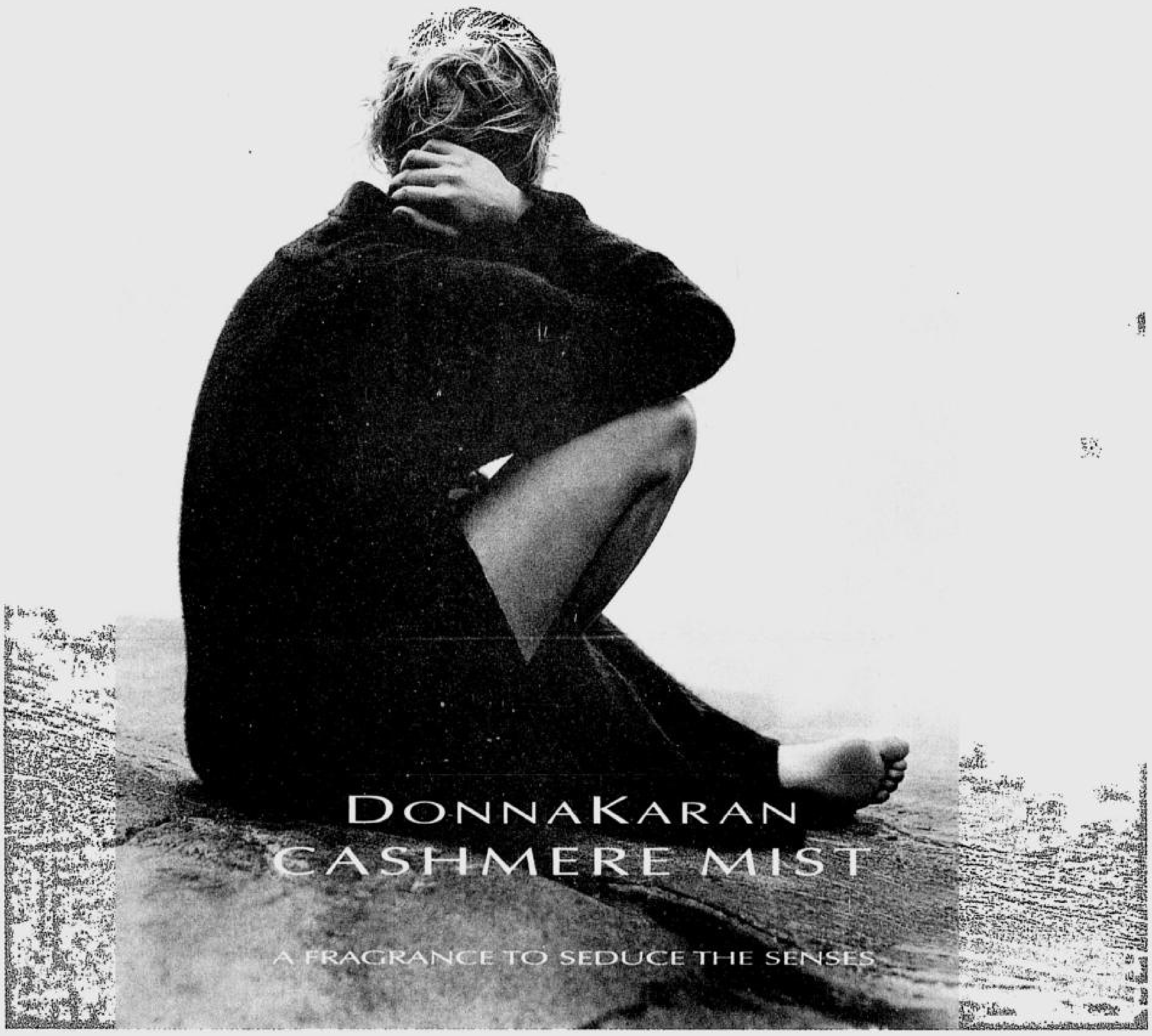
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# Witty quotations of the Old Masters

By Constantino C. Tejero

This may be the most important art exhibition mounted in Manila this year

WHEN in "After Chardin" Lucian Freud reworked Jean-Baptiste-Siméon Chardin's "The Young Schoolmistress," a lot of transformations occurred.

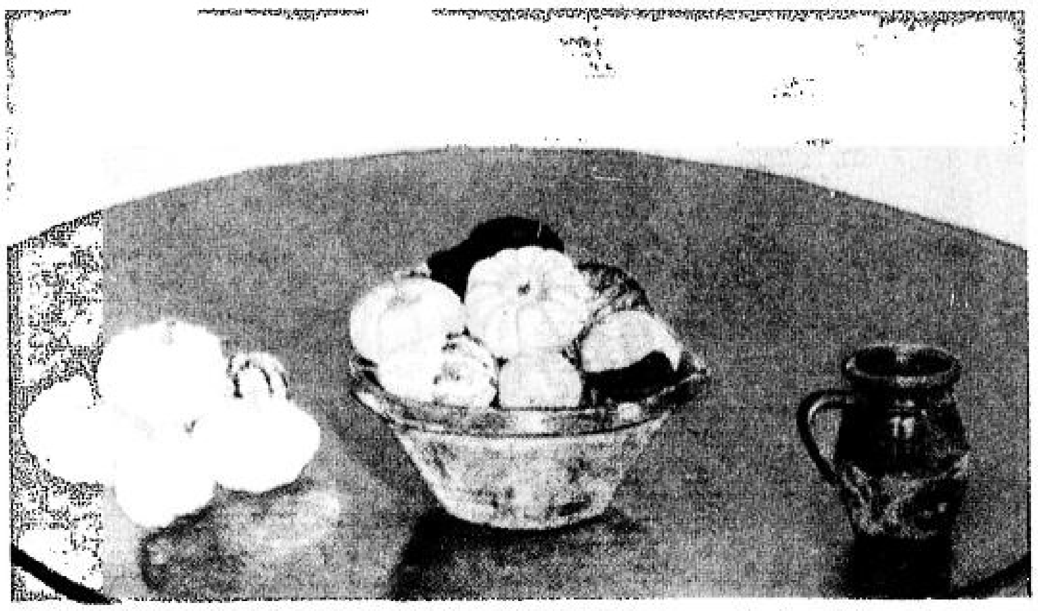
Chardin's precise line and delicate tonality have given way to Freud's broad brushstrokes. Though the two paintings similarly use rich colors, Freud's paint application is denser. And, from a schoolmistress teaching a child how to read, the image has been transformed into what seems to be a nanny feeding a child.

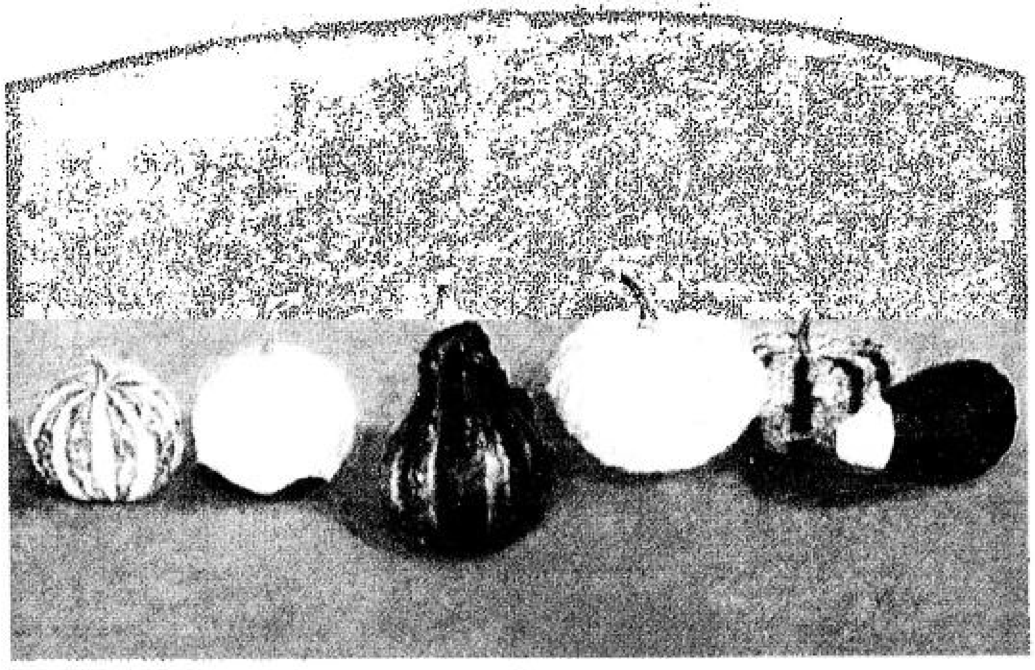
In one of Picasso's several reworkings of Velasquez's "Las Meninas," we see the lines and figures distorted, of course, the colors transformed from brown monochrome to blue monochrome, but the original shapes and perspective are still recognizable.

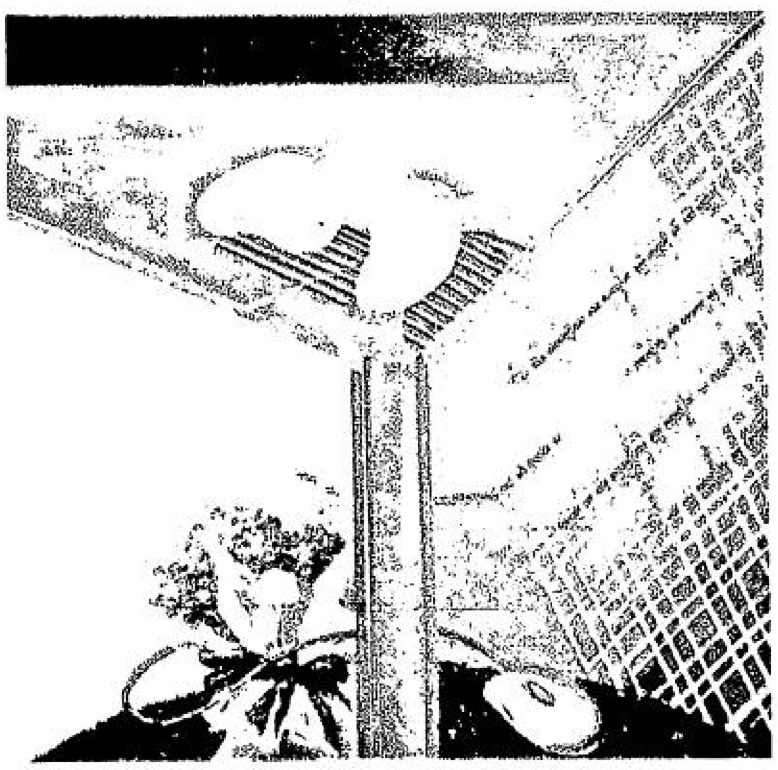
It is the same case with Picasso's reworkings of the masterpieces of other older masters such as Grünewald, Courbet, El Greco. Or, for that matter, Matisse of Cézanne, Cézanne of Delacroix, and so on.

What may be the reason for this homage?

There are some. The artist may just be studying the master's composition and color tonalities. Or the artist may be trying to reinterpret the work, even improve on it, enrich it. Or the artwork is just too beautiful it has to be repeated, multiplied. The homage may just be a simple impulse, gesture or token of gratitude and admiration. Or, who knows, it could be that the artist is just being playful.


"STILL Life with Squash": Ofelia Gelvezon Tequi's homage to Zurbaran

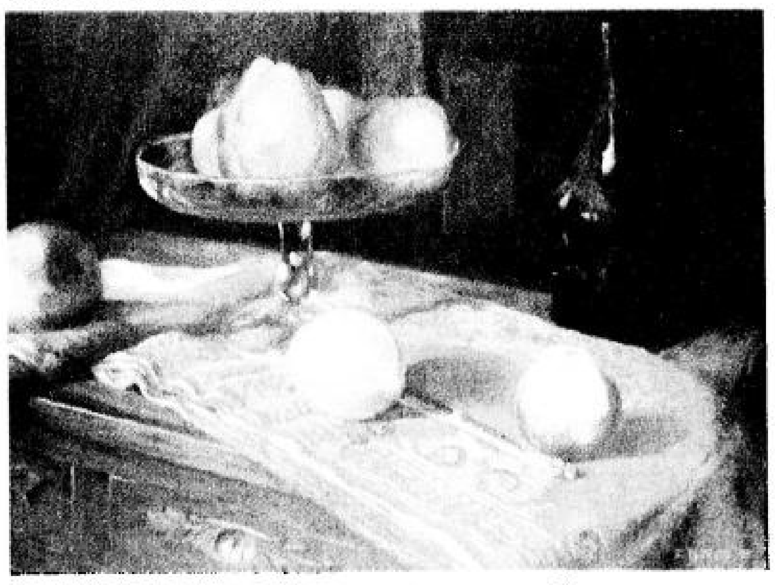

TEQUI'S homage to Mu Ch'i

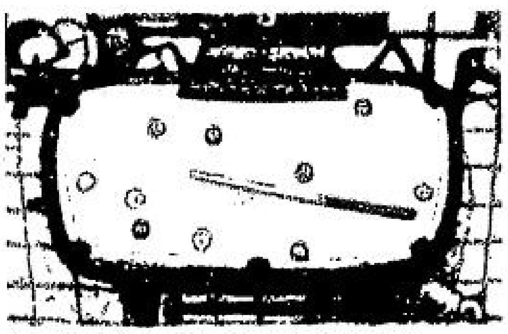

"LOVE for Three Mangoes": Rod. Paras-Perez's homage to Morandi and Manansala

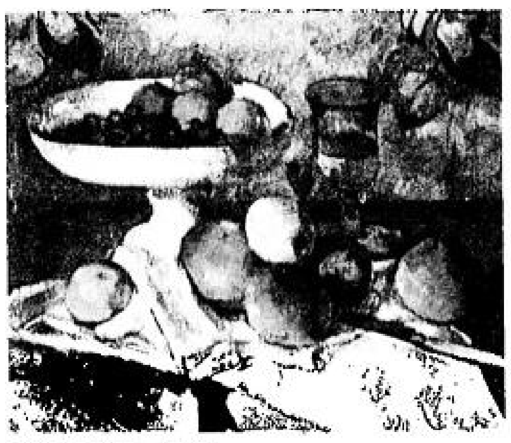
### Close appropriation

A large-scale exhibition of why and how artists would make homage to the masters, rework, emulate or allude to older masterpieces, is ongoing until Sept. 21 in Tall Gallery at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. Presented by the Artlink Group and curated by art critic Rod. Paras-Perez, "Homage to the Masters" is an extraordinary show of 54 artworks by 42 Filipino artists which may yet prove to be the most important art exhibition mounted in Manila this year.

Consisting of still lifes, landscapes, portraits in oil, acrylic, bronze, stainless steel, wood, mixed media, the exhibit is notable for its scope as well as aesthetics. Just as remarkable, some of these homage-givers are no longer what we would consider students but are themselves masters, a few of them National Artists, and one, Vicente Manansala, is here being paid homage to by younger artists.


"THE RED Cloth": Carly Florido's homage to Cézanne


"BILYAR 9-Ball": Antonio Austria's homage to Van Gogh and Braque


CÉZANNE still life

Several of the pieces are too close an appropriation as to be virtual copies: Edgardo Lantin's Cézanne; Mona's Sam Francis; Mia Herbosa's Dürer; Juvenal Sansó's Van Gogh; Soler's Diebenkorn; Mardi Alcid-Aguilar's Anne Vallayer Coster.

Many have made modifications on the older masterpieces and stamped the resulting artworks as their own: Manansala's Vermeer and Gabriel Metsu; Fil Delacruz's Botticelli; Agustin Goy's Amorsolo; Arturo Luz's Klee; Antonio Austria's Van Gogh and Matisse; Romulo Galicano's Manansala; Danilo Dalena's Elmer Bischoff; Fred Baldemor's Grünewald and Picasso; Cid Reyes' Warhol; Edwin Wilwayco's Matisse; Mayet Ligad Yuhico's Bonnard; Carlos Florido's Cézanne; Horacio Gillego's Cézanne; Mario Panis' Cézanne.

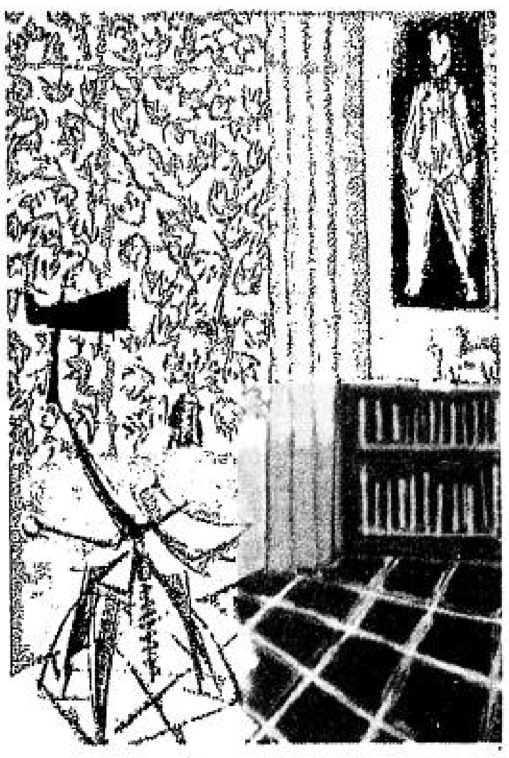
### Lasting impression

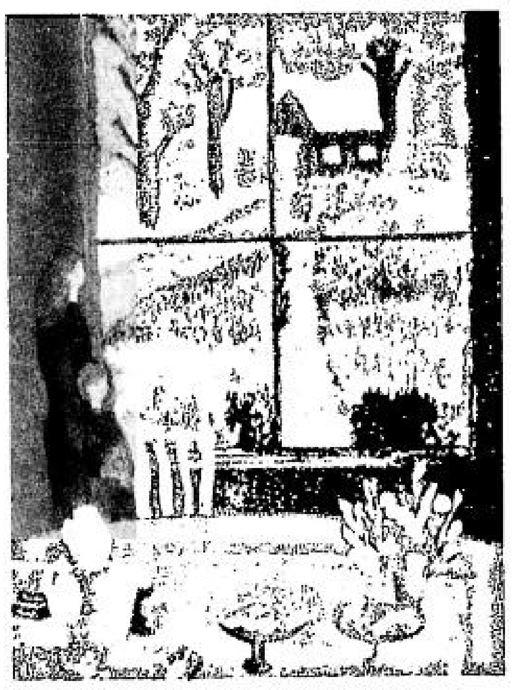
Others look too different from the older masterpieces that the latter seem to have served only as inspirations: Napoleon Abueva's Picasso; Manuel Baldemor's El Greco; Paras-Perez's Morandi and Manansala; Lirio Salvador's Picabia; Ofelia Gelvezon Tequi's Zurbaran and Mu Ch'i; Philip Victor's Jan Van Goyen; Galicano's Velasquez, Picasso and Mondrian; Dalena's Manet; Nestor Vinluan's Monet; Julius Punzalan's Van Gogh.

In a few, the older masterpieces are barely recognizable so that the viewer is a bit puzzled as to the connection: Sofronio Mendoza's Matisse; Gabriel Barredo's Jean Tinguely; Tito Roy's Utamaro; Dante Silverio's Matisse; José Villadolid's Albert Marquet; Amado Albano Hidalgo's Van Gogh; William Chua's Chardin; Publio Briones Jr.'s Juan Gris.

Many of these artworks have made a big impact on us for the way they have transformed the older masterpieces, and left us with a lasting impression of their coloristic or formal beauty: Fernando Zobel's "Self-Portrait on the Wall"; Manansala's "Lady at a Clavecin"; Abueva's "Still Life with a Guitar"; Luz's "Madjapahit I-II"; Austria's "Bilyar 9-Ball"; Barredo's "Homage to Jean Tinguely"; Dalena's "Luling Olympia"; Galicano's "Sinigang" and "Family Portrait with the Artist"; Paras-Perez's "Love for Three Mangoes"; Reyes' "Warhol Flowers"; Salvador's "Sandata 5"; Sansó's "Sunburst in Provence"; Tequi's "Still Life with Squash"; Vinluan's "Homage to Monet's Water Lilies"; Wilwayco's "The Pineapples"; Florido's "The Red Cloth"; Panis' "Still Life with Curtain"; Punzalan's "Sunflowers"; Yuhico's "The Blue Gift."

The show illustrates how effortlessly Filipino artists have assimilated Western art, and successfully appropriated the older masterpieces to create their own masterpieces. This is one exhibit that has to be seen to be believed.


"SELF-PORTRAIT on the Wall": Fernando Zobel's homage to Matisse


"THE BLUE Gift": Mayet Ligad Yuhico's homage to Bonnard

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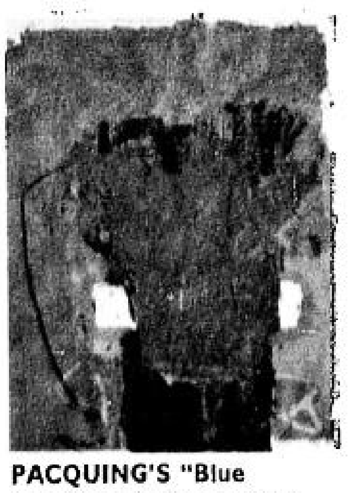
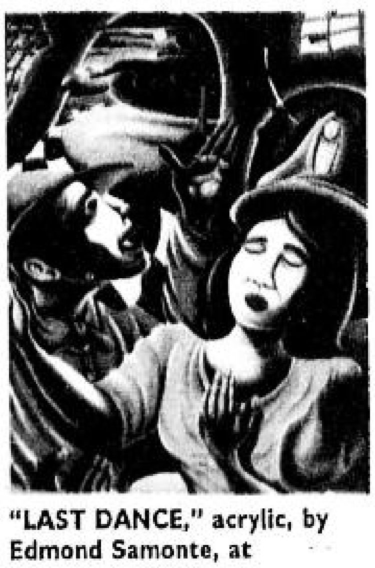
# Pacquing at West, Tres Acidos at Grand Boulevard, Bulacan artists at Rizal Park, Zapanta at UA&P

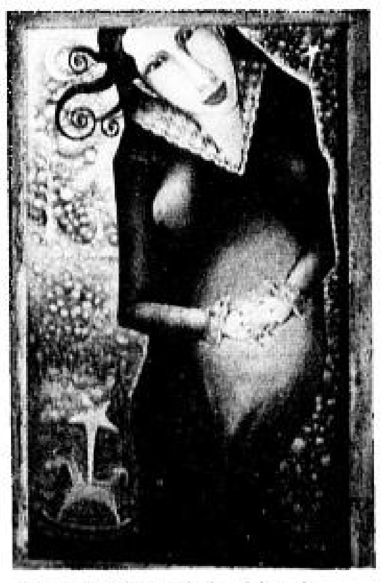
VISUAL ARTS

BERNARDO PACQUING presents his recent works in oil titled "Blue," at the West Gallery, 2/L, Lifestyles, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell, Makati City, Sept. 14-28. Pacquing carefully folds a symmetrical piece of paper into several equal parts, producing thin, straight, distinct and perfectly executed lines. Call 898-0324.

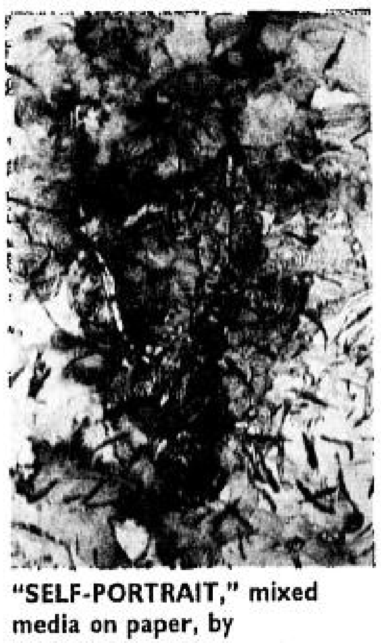
THE TRES ACIDOS ARTISTS turn inward for "Soft" images at the Grand Boulevard Hotel. The show runs until Sept 25. Members Andres Barrioquinto, Kiko Escora, Joel Mendez, Butch Payawal and Ronald Ventura will exhibit 33 works in their favored medium to present their own interpretation of what "soft" means. Call 687-7425 or 373-3365.


PACQUING'S "Blue Painting I," oil on paper


"LAST DANCE," acrylic, by Edmond Samonte, at Kanlungan ng Sining

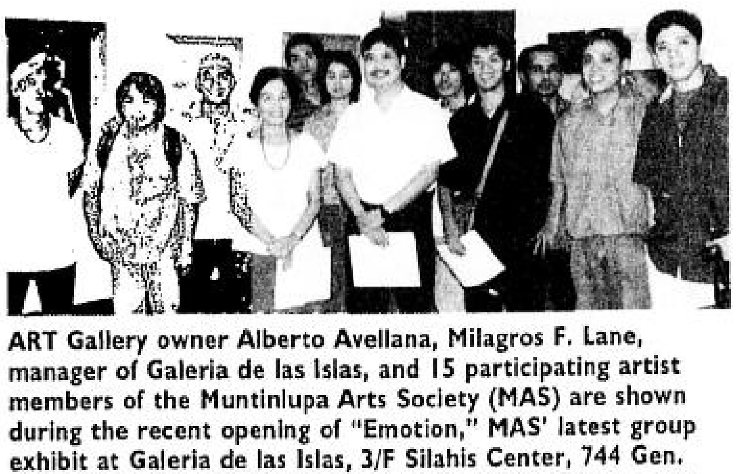

"BLESSED," oil, by Marvin Samonte, at Kanlungan ng Sining

BULACAN artists will open an exhibit, "Kulturang Bulacan," on Sept. 14 at the Kanlungan ng Sining at Rizal Park, in connection with Bulacan Week. The artists include the Samonte family, Al Perez, A. Bagtas, Wilfredo Offemaria, Jose Caoili, Andrew de Guzman.

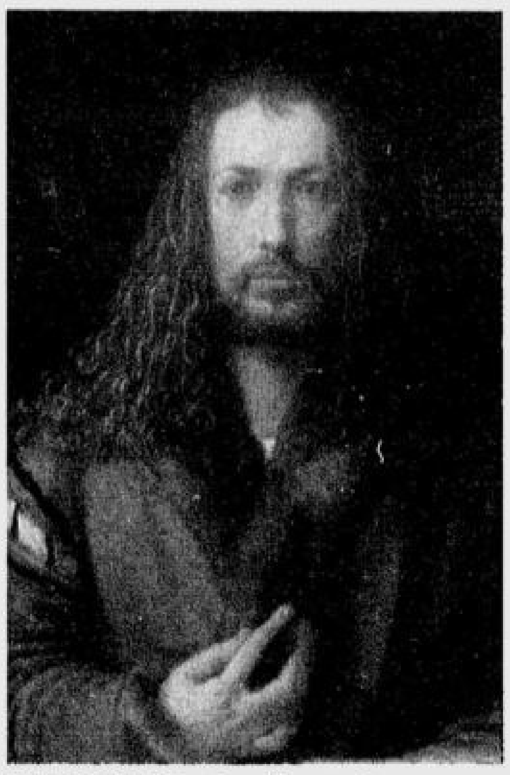

"SELF-PORTRAIT," mixed media on paper, by Roderico Jose Daroy, at Drawing Room

PHYLLIS ZABALLERO fondly remembers details of objects, people and places precious to her in "My Favorite Things," her second exhibit of still-life paintings in acrylic at the Galleria Duemila, 4/L Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Ortigas Complex,

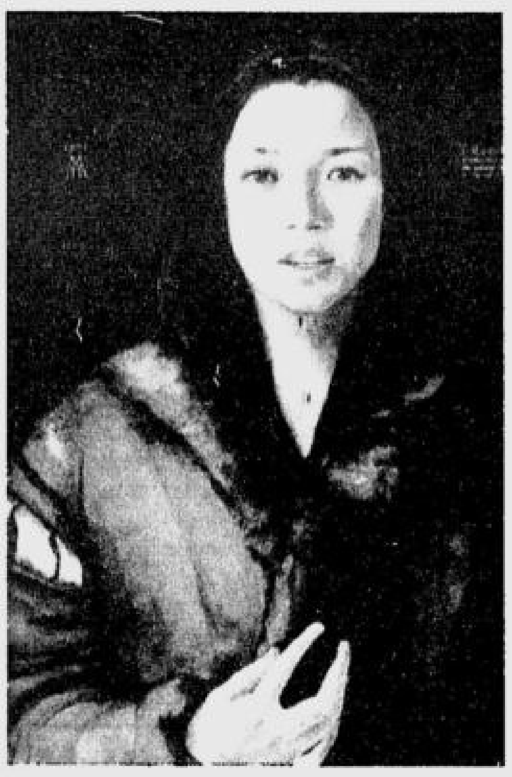
PACQUING/ p.E3


ART Gallery owner Alberto Avellana, Milagros F. Lane, manager of Galeria de las Islas, and 15 participating artist members of the Muntinlupa Arts Society (MAS) are shown during the recent opening of "Emotion," MAS' latest group exhibit at Galeria de las Islas, 3/F Silahis Center, 744 Gen. Luna St., Intamuros, Manila. The exhibit runs until Sept. 25. Call 527-2113.

PHILIPPINE participants in the 17th Asian International Art Exhibition held at Daejeon Municipal Art Museum in Korea pose with the Philippine ambassador and his wife during a lunch sponsored by the Korean committee. From left: Virgilio Aviado, Phyllis Zaballero, Angie Jarasa, Susan Fetalvero-Roces (chair of the Philippine committee), Ambassador Juanito Jarasa and Ben Cabrera.



ALBRECHT Dürer's self-portrait



MIA Herbosa's self-portrait

### MIA ONGPIN HERBOSA

# Her own artistic persona

**By Cynthia Ongpin Valdes**
*Contributor*

I READ somewhere that Cecile Licad's mother played music to her unborn child. Instead of lullabies, the tune of the great composers would lead the baby to sleep. The child gravitated to the piano at a young age and never looked back.

Sometimes, there are families that appear to be particularly gifted with some kind of talent. Soledad Lacson Locsin, who did a wonderful job of translating Rizal's "Noli," wrote many literary pieces in her youth. Her brother, the late Arsenio Lacson (the former mayor of Manila), was also a journalist. Soledad's husband was in the newspaper publishing business. Together, he and Soledad raised children who eventually found themselves in the literary, journalistic or newspaper publishing fields.

### Family

The Ongpins have, in recent years, made a name in the government. Roman Ongpin, philanthropist and patriot, however, is considered the family patriarch, and it is from him that his descendants derive their sense of identity. Since Roman firmly thought of himself as Filipino, future generations of his descendants no longer think of themselves as anything else.

Roman, however, was second-generation Chinese or *mestizo*—his father Simon, having been an immigrant from Fujian province, married a Chinese *mestiza*. Their son Alfonso distinguished himself as "Dean of Filipino Collectors" (in the words of art historian Santiago Albano Pilar), putting together the largest and best-known collection of paintings during the 1930s to the 1960s.

The Herbosas are an old and genteel family who trace their line to José Rizal, one of Rizal's sisters having married an Herbosa. Although a Spanish family name does not necessarily lead to an Iberian ancestor in the family, one only needs to look at Mia's dad, Pocholo, with his distinctively Spanish features, to be reassured that, indeed, there must have been a Spaniard in the family.

### Young Mia

I didn't hear family stories of Mia as a talented sketch artist at a young age. She attended the usual neighborhood school at Alabang, and Ateneo after that, had a circle of friends and went to the usual parties.

It was sometime during her college years that Mia started to paint. She showed promise, but then many other fledgling artists do. What probably made the difference was that she was able to find her way to the Art Student's League of New York. Through sheer tenacity and hard work, she made her mark in the school and went on to become one of its outstanding products.

At some time or the other, Mia must have been, to some extent, intimidated by the rigors and demands of her craft. The Art Student's League is a venerable old institution and many illustrious names and personages have preceded her. I can only think that she must be made of some very fine stuff to have withstood her trials. Indeed, she thrived in the big city, embracing it all—the harsh weather, the long hours, even the loneliness.

As I stare at her self-portrait, shrouded in the robes of the German master Albrecht Dürer, who was himself a portraitist, I see Mia. It is a very good likeness.

This is an honest piece of work, I tell myself. Mia knows herself, and this she has rendered effectively on canvas, nothing more, nothing less.

### East and West

Although the Ongpins now rarely refer to their Chinese roots, take one look at any member of the family and it cannot be denied that they are Chinese descendants, despite some Spanish blood here and there. The eyes are slanted or pinched at the corners; the cheekbones high and the complexion fine with an undertone of yellow, rather than the usual pink.

Mia Ongpin Herbosa must be thought of as a successful commingling of East and West. Her looks, despite the certain infusion of Spanish blood from her father's side, are decidedly Oriental.

Having been schooled in the West, Mia has learned a distinctly Western technique. The League has managed to put its stamp on her. I would say she was born with talent. Fortunately, this was supported by a family with a long history of exposure to the arts. Without doubt, however, it was the Art Student's League of New York that made her what she is today.

Mia has been winning numerous prestigious awards and travel grants that have further matured her as an artist. In this show at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, she joins her Filipino colleagues, some of whom are long-established artists. How can the country not but be proud of a son/daughter who has been acknowledged by peers in international circles?

I have not seen Mia in a while. In my mind's eye, she is still the same sweet girl I used to know. In her latest work, I see her looking back at me from the canvas where she has created such an honest appraisal of herself. Yes, it's Mia—child-woman, woman-child. She continues to be gently monitored by mother and father, doted upon by a retinue of aunts and uncles. In many ways, however, she has transcended family to become her own persona.

*"Homage to the Masters" at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila runs until this month.*

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# Pacquing at West, Tres Acidos at Grand Boulevard . . .

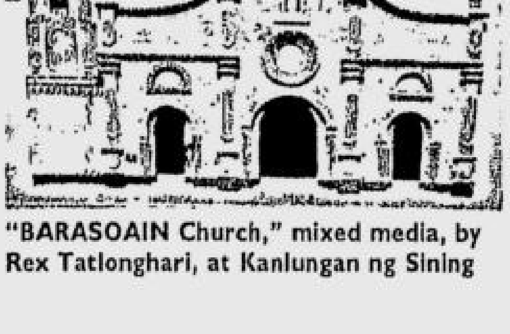
From page E2

Mandaluyong City, which runs until Sept. 15. The exhibit dwells on Zaballero's recent trips to France, China and Macau and familiar scenes from home. Call 634-3261, 831-9990, 633-6687 or 833-9815.

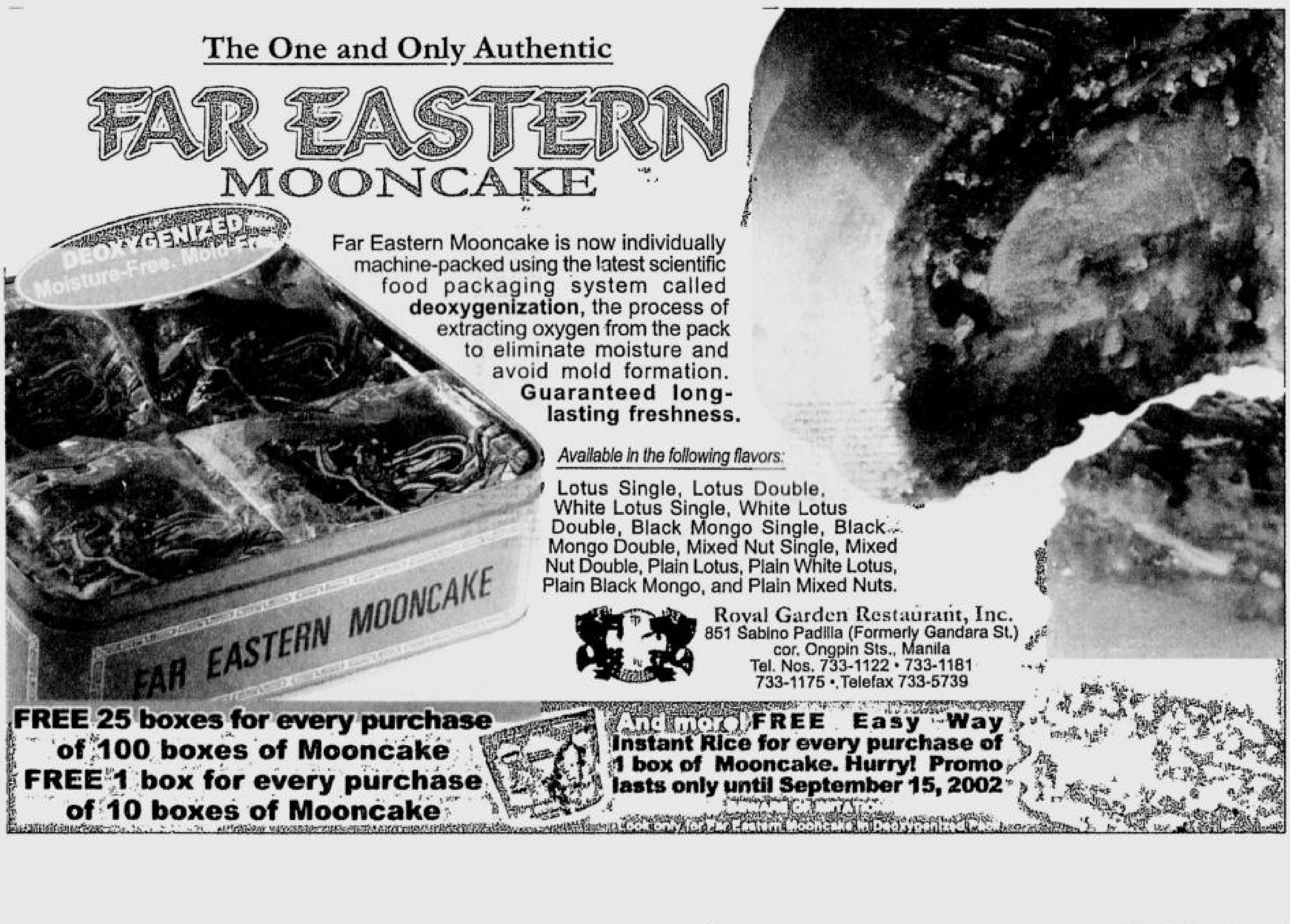
GODOFREDO "Godo" Zapanta presents "Faith, Icons & Graces," his second one-man show. The exhibit, which manifests the artist's deep religious faith, opens Sept. 11 and will run until Sept. 28, at the Hanns Seidel Hall, Development Communications Building of the University of Asia and the Pacific, Pear Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

JOY T. DAYRIT will exhibit her recent paintings "My Chair/30 Times," at Finale Art Gallery, 4/L, SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City. Call 634-2410/2411.

ERIC GUAZON'S first solo exhibit of mixed media paintings, "Playground," is on view at The Big & Small Art Co., Artwalk, 4/F SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City. Small and large paintings remap the terrain of war and violence, extending it to include actual events. Patrick D. Flores curates the show, which runs until Sept. 18. Call 687-7425.



"BARASOAIN Church," mixed media, by Rex Tatlonghari, at Kanlungan ng Sining



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# Grateful drop of milk, memory and history

**SPACED OUT**

*Augusto F. Villalon*

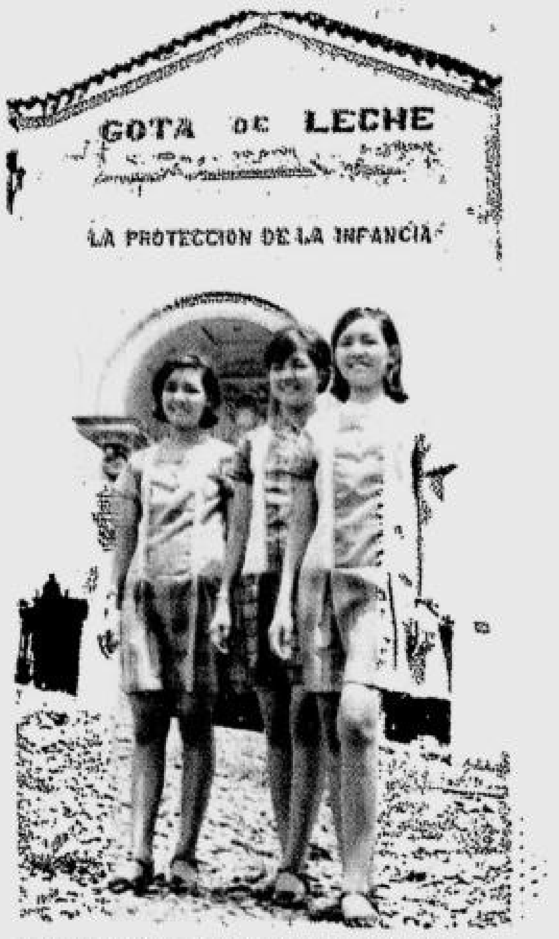
I HAD heard a lot about the Gota de Leche (Drop of Milk) building, one of the few surviving buildings in Manila jointly designed by local architectural icons Arcadio and Juan Arellano. So two years ago, I went to see it for the first time. Most of the building was in a sorry state, but its heritage-quality bone structure still stood out.

The present Gota de Leche occupies a small part of the original building. As soon as I saw the framed photograph hanging on their wall, it was instant déjà vu.

The picture was an identical print of the one that once hung on the wall of my grandmother's house in my childhood. It became one of my memories associated with our old family house. Here I was, unexpectedly revisiting this particular memory, but the visual it was connected to was on someone else's wall. What was it doing there?

The 1922 photograph shows my grandfather sitting around a circular table with the other stern-faced board members of the La Protección de la Infancia (The Protection of Infancy), a charitable institution established in 1907. The names of the colleagues with him around the table have long passed into history—Leonard Wood, Aurora Quezon, Librada Avelino, Teodoro Yangco, Ariston Bautista, Joaquin Quintos, Natividad Almeda-Lopez.

My family's copy of the portrait hung on the wall above the telephone outside my widowed grandmother's bedroom, in the house where she and my grandfather brought up their family. It was a spacious wooden house in the middle of what were then the open fields of Mandaluyong.


GOTA DE LECHE
LA PROTECCION DE LA INFANCIA

**BORN** to a Manila policeman, the Fermin triplets stand in front of the historic Gota de Leche building in the late 1960s. Nursed through their infancy and early childhood by the Gota de Leche program, they now reside in the US.

The same fields still surrounded us when it was my generation's turn to grow up there. I suppose the old house would be called ancestral today, but a drastic 1980s remodeling totally changed the way it looked. It cut off all ties with the shared patrimony of our family as embodied by the old house.

## Dedicated physician

I don't have much to relate with my grandfather. He died before I was born. I did not know much about him. All I really knew came from family oral history—that he led a full physician's life dedicated to humankind. That old photograph was one of my few visual contacts with him.

The picture on the wall of the Gota de Leche office was proof of the physician persona that I had heard about. Dr. José Fabella, my grandfather, was the public welfare commissioner at the time the portrait was taken, so he did lead a life of service as I was told.

His involvement with the La Protección de la Infancia grew out of his concern for the welfare of indigent children. La Protección de la Infancia is the NGO that runs the Gota de Leche, a charity organization that gives out free milk and provides medical attention to indigent babies. Since its founding in 1907, it has carried out its mission without stopping.

Fabella was the president of La Protección de la Infancia from 1931 to 1935. He was succeeded by Justice Natividad Almeda Lopez from 1936 to 1976. Her daughter, Lourdes Almeda Lopez-Sarabia, took over. She remains as president of the institution.

## Help to children

Thursday is consultation day, when the Gota de Leche receives over 250 children beneficiaries of the nutrition program. The house provides the free services of a resident pediatrician, who checks the babies and certifies which of them are to receive free weekly rations of milk.

The pediatrician monitors the health progress of the recipients each week until they can become "graduates" with a clean bill of health. Graduates are replaced by new beneficiaries.

As testimony to the tradition that it has lasted a century, the present-day Gota de Leche has decided to restore its landmark building to its original condition.

The structure is one of the forgotten jewels of Philippine architecture. The low, arcaded building designed in 1916 takes its form from a classic architectural icon from the Renaissance, the Ospedale degli Innocenti in Florence, built in 1419 by the master architect Filippo Brunelleschi. The Ospedale degli Innocenti is appropriately an orphanage.

Today, the Gota de Leche administration took out from storage the same round table that was in the foreground of my grandfather's photograph. To celebrate the table's return to the room where it had originally been, a great lunch was laid out on it for the foundation staff and construction crew.

After spending the past few months working on the architectural restoration of the building, my having lunch on that table was more than the usual thanksgiving at the end of a construction. It brought me back to my family roots. So far, this was the only architectural restoration project that I had done which linked me with my own personal heritage.

As soon as we finally clean out all of the construction dust, I am taking my sons and grandsons to the Gota de Leche to show them the old photograph that will now hang with renewed pride of place on the restored wall of the main salon, in the same room where the photograph was taken.

In view of their great grandfather's portrait, the younger generation can have lunch like I did on the same table at which he posed for that picture. It is bound to be a lunch that will live on as a family memory.

*If you wish to visit, learn about, or support the La Protección de la Infancia, contact the Gota de Leche at 859 S. Loyola St. (between Recto Avenue and R. Papa Street) in Sampaloc, Manila, with tel. 736-9508. All donations to the Gota de Leche are tax-deductible.*

*E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph*

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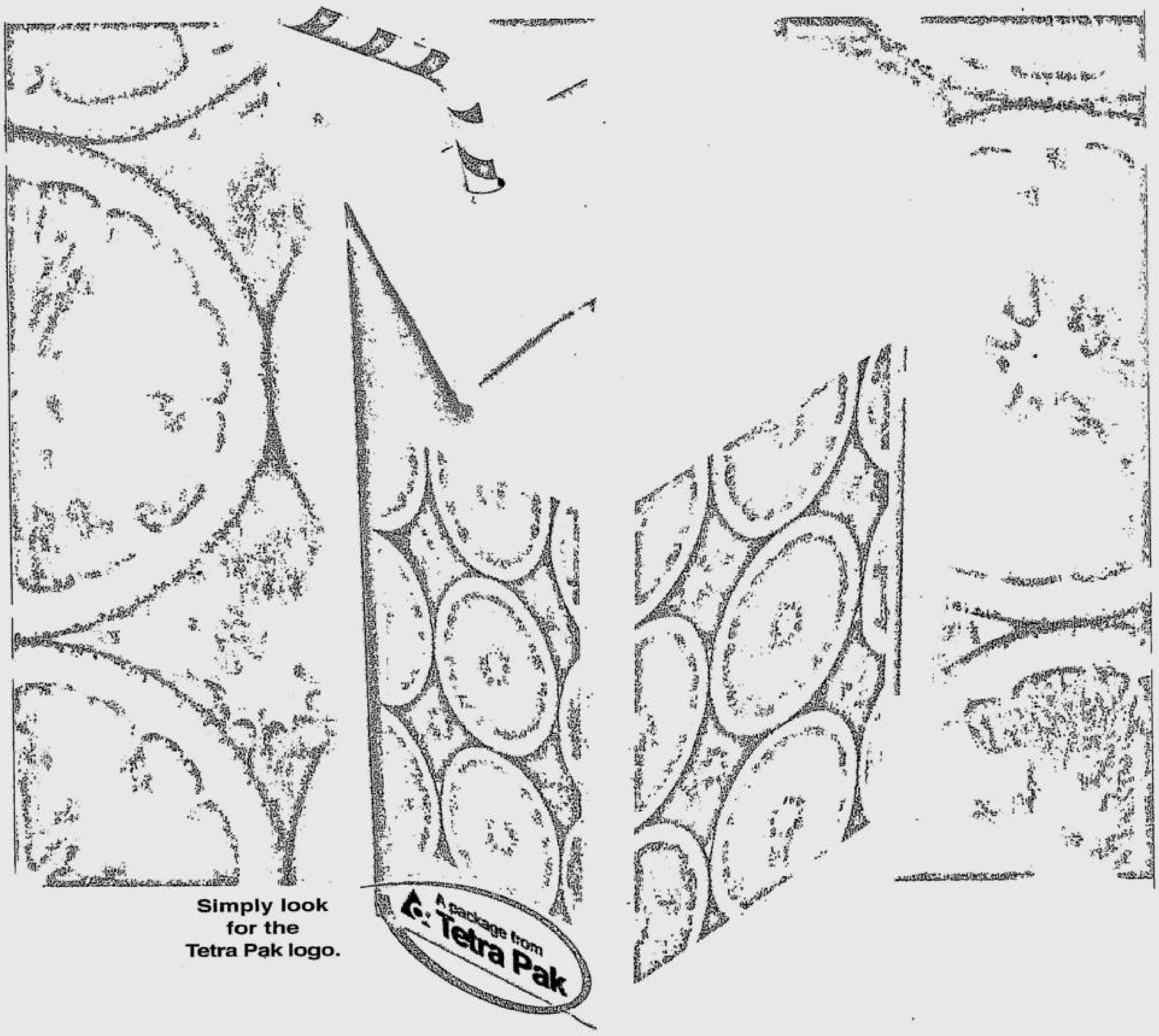
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LIFESTYLE

Books

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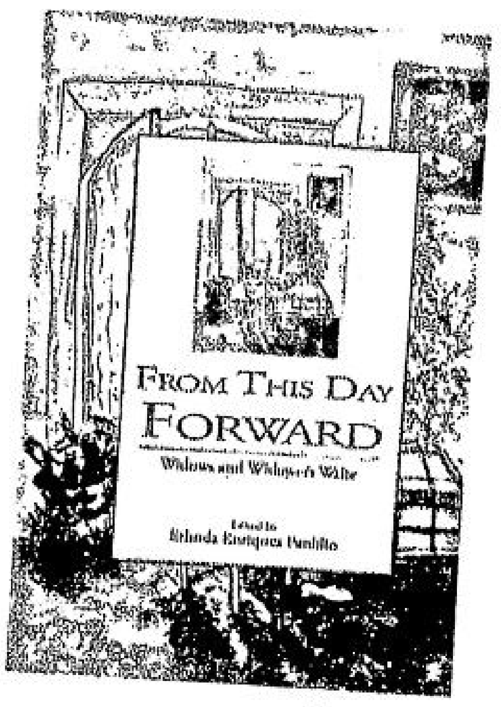
# Confronting widowhood

Edited by certified widow and the certainly available Linda Panlilio, a collection of essays by some of the country's foremost widows and widowers is bound to take widowhood past the strange grief and the terrible silence



**From This Day Forward: Widows and Widowers Write**
*Edited by Erlinda Enriquez Panlilio*
*Anvil Publishing, 2002*

By Emmie Velarde

A MATTER of death and life, we might say this book is.

It is written by 13 widows and eight widowers revisiting the one rite of passage they have all shared, a road that the anointed half of every couple, married or unmarried (in which case, what are they called?), will invariably walk down.

**REVIEW**

Gloomy? Only in parts. "From This Day Forward" is a tone-setting title drawn from the wedding vows. The very personal essays deal more with the picking-up after and new beginnings that are often dithering but at times determined, and always, mercifully, unhurried.

They could have called it "Till Death Do Us Part," but then many of us might think twice about plucking it from the shelves.

Besides, most of the storytellers have been netted post-mourning, and in fact, we can spot a handful who turned out quite merry. Even so, for our own sake, the anthology is best put down from time to time, and not read through to the end, although the temptation might be great: the roster reads like a carefully composed guest list.

Because no two people are alike, we get 21 points of view and courses of action following the event that is the crux of the collection, one of only two things certain in this existence, as they say. No, not taxes, despite the fact that taxes are also referred to as "dues," "duties," and "toll"—the exact way that some of the authors eventually regarded their situations.

Taxes, unwelcome as they are anywhere in the world from the beginning of time, is not the source of all fears. This other one is. They are truly fortunate but few who conquer this fear and see it as a natural component of a divinely designed cycle.

### Bound to evoke

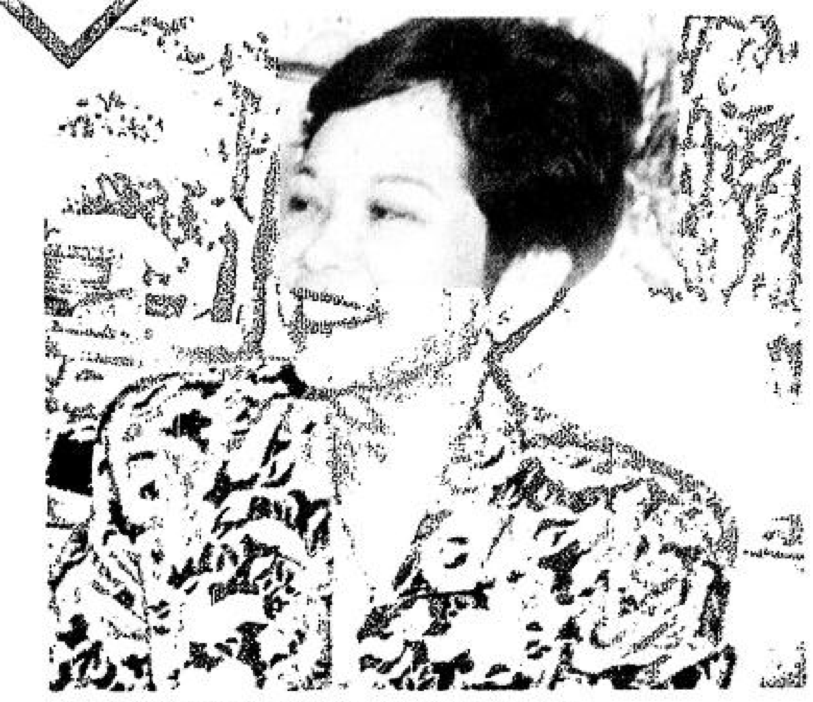
Also because no two people are alike, the 21 essays are bound to evoke over 21,000 responses, for a start. The copy from which this particular response right here springs, glows, literally, with sporadic streaks of Stabilo, highlighting words that comforted, roused, or led to pensive pauses.

Not exactly a literary endeavor of one, the writing and approach are expectedly uneven—again, 21 parallels. We can only surmise editor Erlinda Enriquez Panlilio's predicament which, she herself relates, started with the invitations she and publisher Karina Bolasco, sent out for the participants to come and open up old wounds.

Some of the writers ramble and wade in relentless detail, a device which, on second reading, merely reveals a profound dread of confronting bittersweet reminiscences yet again. A few others indulge in self-exorcism that generates more plus points than the opposite route, self-affirmation, which is occasionally carried to the extreme.

The "coolest" entries are those written from a presumably safe "distance," never mind that the authors were wont to describe the spouse's passing in two sentences flat, or less.

CONFRONTING/ p.F5



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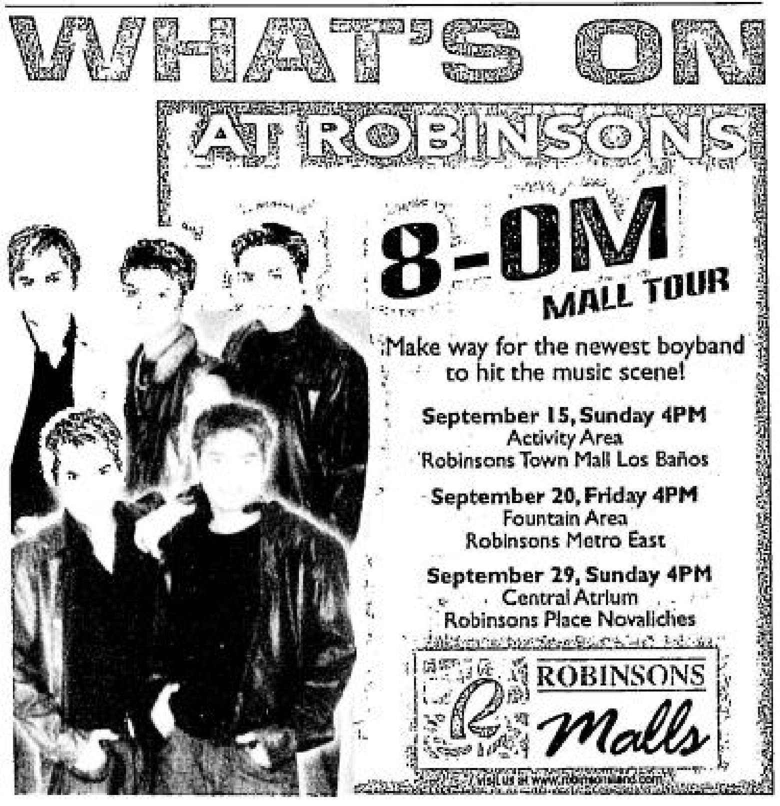
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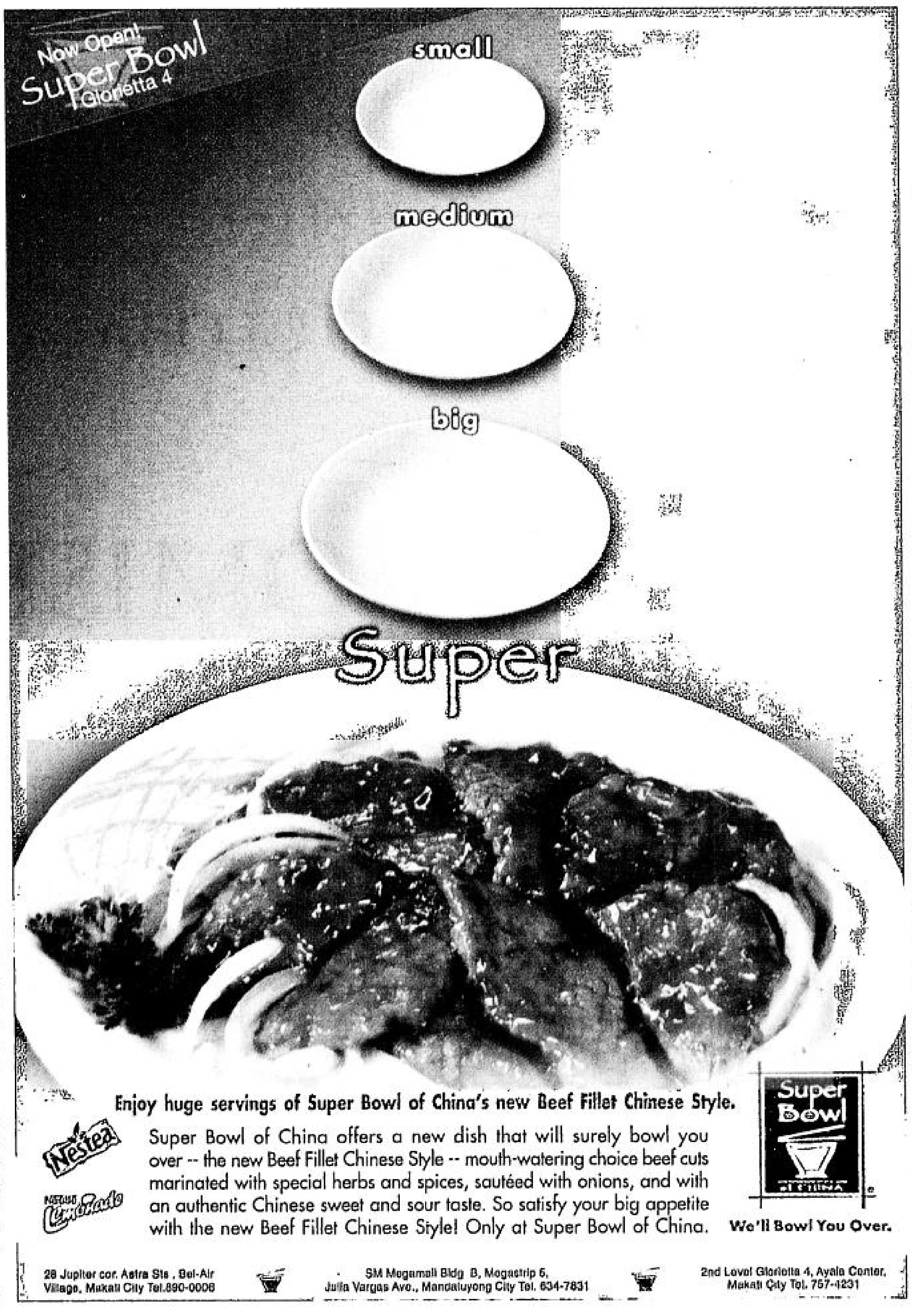

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# Getting ahead, looking beyond

**By Marlet D. Salazar**

MOVING in to a new home is one thrilling event for the family of International School Manila with its spacious (and we mean "really spacious") state-of-the-art campus situated at the heart of Fort Bonifacio's Global City.

The humongous task of relocating IS Manila from its old home in Bel Air became a reality during the groundbreaking ceremony on Dec. 8, 2000. On the once muddy hillock at the University Park now proudly stands this educational institution that has always been committed to excellence.

IS Manila's 1,500 students are now occupying the seven-hectare campus since classes began Aug. 19. They are already enjoying the large-carpeted air-conditioned classrooms and landscaped quadrangles each uniquely designed to distinguish one school (Elementary, Middle, and High) from the other.

The new building's greatest pride is the 850-seat Fine and Performing Arts Theater. Its opening is something to look forward to. Before the end of the year, music, dance and drama enthusiasts will be performing in this large yet intimate theater. For small functions, there's the open-seating experimental theater with a 350-seat capacity.

Opposite the classrooms and administration offices, you will find the amazing Library-Media Center, which spans two stories and is fully carpeted. Patterned after an American public library with its 80,000 volumes, it also contains a vast collection of videos and CDs and direct links to online databases in the United States.

### Sports Facilities

Students can expect a lot of room for their physical activities as the school generously invested in sports and fitness facilities.

IS Manila also boasts of three gymnasia with NBA-standard 10-millimeter synthetic or rubberized sports flooring. Translated: the gyms are safe playing courts for students playing basketball, volleyball and other indoor sports. To complete its outdoor sports amenities are the three swimming pools, six tennis courts, a fitness gym, three playing fields for soccer and softball and a 400-meter running track.

The Elementary School pupils are not to be outdone. Flanking their quadrangle on the plaza level are areas of rubber-matted flooring to ensure safety of students at play.

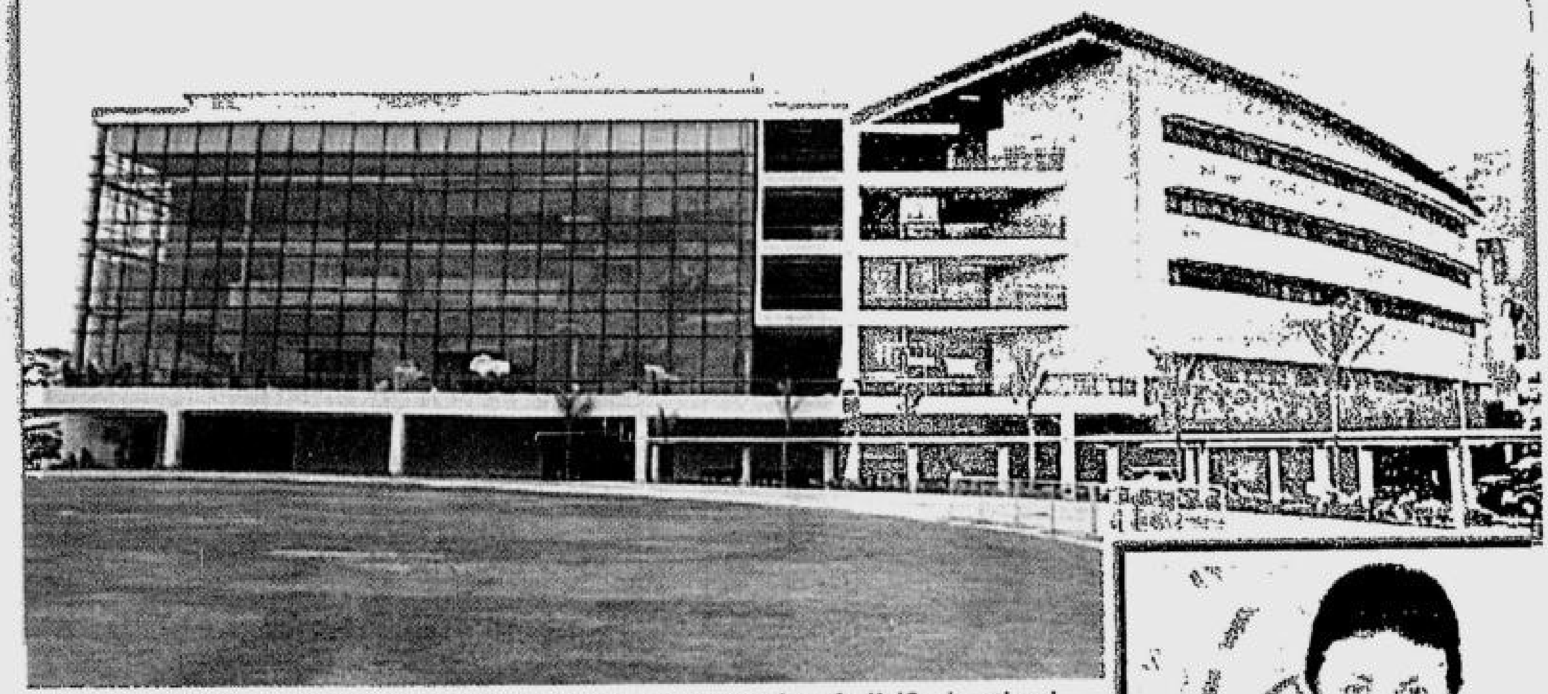
### The Learning Environment

Learning can be a breeze especially if the curriculum, teachers and students complement one other. Tables in each classroom are arranged according to each teacher's preference.

True to its commitment of providing holistic learning for its students, the new campus activity rooms for afternoon and co-curricular activities such as 2-dimensional art rooms, 3-dimensional art rooms for sculpture and pottery, music practice rooms, rooms for drama, dance, movement and martial arts, laboratories for the different sciences and Information and Communications Technology.

The school's design is large and open.The interconnected buildings were built with only the highest quality construction materials and the beautiful deep green slate used on the School's façade was imported from Mindanao.

More is yet to come for the students of IS Manila as the new campus matches the School's dynamic and progressive curriculum and co-curricular programs. The International School Manila stands tall, literally and figuratively, giving learning a whole new meaning.



**INTERNATIONAL School Manila is currently the largest construction of a K-12 educational facility in the world.**

Photos by ROGER CARPIO

### Message from the Superintendent International School Manila

**DAVID Toze**

IS Manila offers a truly international learning arena with children from over 50 different countries, thus presenting a conflux of culture, languages, experiences and opinions that help to shape and nurture the next generation of global citizens. Within this context, your child will have the possibility of being stretched and challenged by an outstanding academic program that leads to Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate examinations, and where our success rate makes us one of the world leaders.

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CONGRATULATIONS !!!

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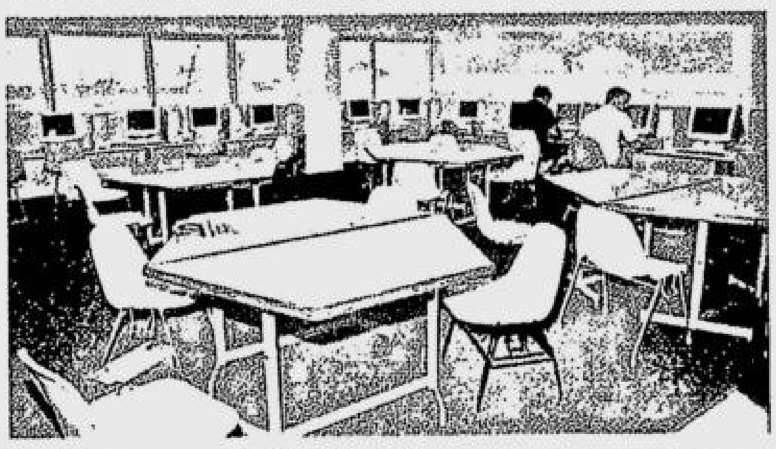

**FOUNDED in 1920, International School Manila (ISM) continues to provide first-rate education to its valued students. Testaments to its never-ending commitment to excellence are students and alumni who have brought pride and honor to the 82-year-old institution. Through the years, the school has produced world-class individuals who have become successful in their own right.**

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The Advanced Placement (AP) Program gives the student an opportunity to study the subjects of his or her own interests. The program is a collection of college level courses and examinations that will prepare them for the rigors of college work.

As early as ninth grade, students plan a challenging High School academic program geared to the college course they wish to take. This program should meet the individual needs and interests of the child. If a student wants to pursue a career in fine and performing arts, IS Manila's High School guidance counselors develop a 4-year plan that will enhance and support artistic talent and skills. Basic disciplines like Math and Science are incorporated in the plan.

ISM teachers are trained to discern and to adapt the different learning styles of students. ISM believes in individualized learning, thus ensuring that the child stays on track without the fear of

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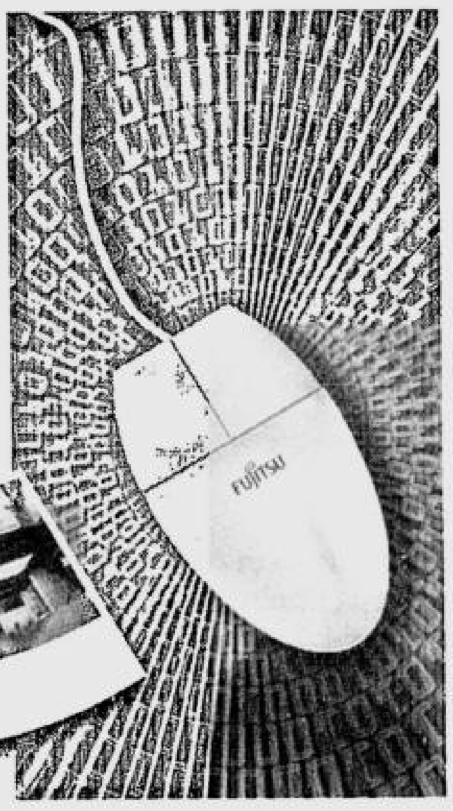

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# Quality education . . .

From page F3

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The ICARE Council sponsors several outreach programs in the provinces. ICARE is an umbrella organization, which acts as the link to other service-related clubs at ISM. Less fortunate children, kids from other schools and the physically challenged benefit from the big hearts of the school's students. Several ISM alumni have brought with them the .spirit of service and learning through their adult life. Among them are Don Enrique Zobel who received an award as Distinguished Alumnus in the field of sports and business; and Kit Kat Zobel who is known to be active in fund-raising projects for children.

Other luminaries who studied at ISM include actors Audie Gemora, Sharon Cuneta, and Pops Fernandez; writer Anton San Diego; Katrina Tantoco of Rustan; Alaska CEO Fred Uytengsu and PBA coach Tim Cone. The name goes on and on, and ISM will never tire of training exceptional people who are leaders and role models.

*Marlet D. Salazar*

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# Confronting widowhood

From page F1

DOREEN G. Fernandez

NARITA Gonzales

CESAR Buenaventura

For example, "The earth trembled and she departed this life."

Not that these are less reflective of the loss or pain from which, it is repeatedly pointed out, "no widow is spared." It's just that a healthy and, in most cases, well-earned, measure of detachment lends every such narration a fresh, even breezy, even humorous perspective. Minus the excess burden, room is found for practical information as well—reassigning chores, reorganizing the kitchen, reconstructing finances.

Still, every single exposition is clearly an act of courage and, better yet, generosity. This is the book's declared objective, anyway: to inspire.

And to keep it attractive to the immediately intended market, it helps that the stories are of people in the public eye, the reading of whose stories by their own telling is infinitely more rewarding than versions that could be certifiable gossip.

But it has to be told: keeping it light (as in not "soggy," as the preface stressed) is the fact that the subjects are citizens perceivably abovc the poverty line, who have the time, space and means to ruminate, rationalize and indeed roam the world, at the peak of their grief. Panlilio does mention in her introduction that widowhood can be financially "disempowering." There is no further reference to this aspect anywhere in the book, apart from a line, or two at most, about "making ends meet."

Understandably, discussions in this direction require another framework, another audience, since the goal would most likely be policy-making, more than bouncing back, over and above illuminating

### Color-coding

For those who habitually keep their volumes brand-new crisp, a second copy would be handy for Stabilo-highlighting according to a color code.

Maybe red for new insights:

*"A life-threatening illness is like a whack upside the head from a Zen master's staff: it hurts, but it wakes you up to the fact that all you really have is the present moment."*

*"You don't become single again, just because you're available."*

*"One should have a funeral before one dies, to know how much one is loved."*

*"No longer into roles, I am into essence. Being essence, I am no longer bound by roles, rules, or geographical limitations."*

*"We accepted death as an interruption of relationships to be resumed on another plane after a while."*

Orange for helpful tips:

*"Couples are well advised to anticipate the need for ready cash in emergencies, including funeral expenses and the cost of snacks and meals during the wake and the more elaborate ninth and 40th day dinners."*

Green for funny quips:

*"Stepmothers never really got a good press since her Wicked Stepmother banned Cinderella from the ball."*

*"If I stayed among family and friends, I would just be the extra woman at dinner parties."*

*"I danced all night in those (mismatched) shoes, to the amusement of Cecilia, who just stood still on her crutches while I danced circles around her. What a memorable night!"*

Violet for raw sentiments:

*"Life, as it should be lived afterwards, has to start with mundane matters—like getting out of bed."*

*"I learned to use sunglasses, bow my head, and seem to read intently, look at a view, whenever in danger of breaking down in public."*

*"One can find a hundred thousand reasons to be angry in a day. And I found them."*

*"When you lose someone you love, there is physical pain. It is said that your heart 'breaks.' I think that is a literal truth."*

Blue for hopeful testimonies:

*"I am proud to be a woman on the way to being myself. I am slowly getting there."*

*"Triumph is more than a moment."*

Presenting the essays as a single cohesive thesis, Panlilio concedes that in the end, "life, whether alone or a with a loving spouse, is truly what you make of it." To which we might add: especially with the certainty that, at any moment, anyone could be shown the way out of this sphere and into the next.

*"From This Day Forward: Widows and Widowers Write" is an anthology of essays by Bambina L. Buenaventura, Cesar A. Buenaventura, Eric S. Caruncho, Doreen G. Fernandez, Lanelle Abueva Fernando, Rafael A. Gonzales, Narita M. Gonzales, Hilarion M. Henares, Lorna P. Kapunan, Jaime C. Laya, Victor Lim, Maribel G. Ongpin, Jose S. Orosa, Marily Y. Orosa, Erlinda E. Panlilio, Agnes Prieto, Beth Day Romulo, Bienvenido A. Tan Jr., Isabel Caro Wilson, Marilen P. Yaptangco and Nina Lim Yuson. It will be launched tomorrow at 5 p.m. at the Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City. Call 671-9235/1899.*

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# *National Book Award winners*

THE MANILA Critics Circle named the Bookmark Inc. Publisher of the Year during the 21st Manila Critics Circle National Book Awards at the Philippine Bookfair, held at the Megatrade Hall, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City, Sept. 3.

It was the third time Bookmark had won the coveted award, having been similarly honored in 1992 and 1993. Dr. Ophelia Alcantara Dimalanta, MCC chair, led the MCC members in announcing the winners of this year's National Book Awards.

INQUIRER columnist and editorial consultant Amando Doronila received the Journalism award for "The Fall of Joseph Estrada: The Inside Story" (INQUIRER Books and Anvil), along with "Into the Mountain: Hostaged by the Abu Sayyaf" by Jose Torres Jr. (Claretian Publications).

Other winners were:

**Anthology.** "Tribute: An Anthology of Contemporary Philippine Fiction," edited by Cesar Ruiz Aquino and Timothy Montes (Anvil), and "Reflections on Philippine Culture and Society: Festschrift in Honor of William Henry Scott," edited by Jesus Peralta (Ateneo de Manila University Press)

**Arts and Architecture.** "Three Centuries of Binondo Architecture" by Lorelei de Viana (UST Publishing House), "Lugar: Essays on Philippine Heritage and Architecture" by Augusto F. Villalon (Bookmark), which also received the Alfonso T. Ongpin Award for Best Book in Art, and "Worship & Weave: Towards Filipino Liturgical Vestments" by Dom Martin de Jesus H. Gomez (Ayala Foundation Inc. and Monastery of the Transfiguration)

**Biography.** "A Life Shaped by Music: Andrea Ofilada Veneracion and the Philippine Madrigal Singers" by Marjorie M. Evasco (Bookmark)

**Children's Literature.** "Once Upon a Time" by Fran Ng and Arnel Mirasol (Tahanan Books for Young Readers), and "Ang Pambihirang Buhok ni Lola" by Rene O. Villanueva and Ibarra Crisostomo (Adarna House)

**Comic Books.** "Isaw, Atbp.," edited by Nikki Alfar (Quest Ventures)

**Cookbooks and Food.** "The Best of Food Magazine," edited by Norma Olizon-Chikiamco (ABS-CBN Publishing)

**Dictionaries.** "A Dictionary of Philippine Plant Names (Vol. I and II)" by Domingo Madulid (Bookmark)

**Drama.** "May Katwiran ang Katwiran at Iba Pang Dula" by Rolando S. Tinio (University of the Philippines Press)

**Environment.** "Key Conservation Sites in the Philippines" by Aldrin Mallari, Blas Tabaranza Jr. and Michael Crosby (Bookmark)

**Essay.** "Letras y Figuras: Business in Culture, Culture in Business" by Jaime C. Laya (Anvil)

**Fiction.** "Suite Bergamasque" by Bobby Flores-Villasis (Giraffe Books)

**History.** "Bearers of Benevolence: The Thomasites and Public Education in the Philippines," edited by Judy Ick and Mary Racelis (Anvil)

**Law.** "The Law on Annulment of Marriage" by Jim V. Lopez (Anvil)

**Literary Studies.** "History and Society in the Novels of Ramon Muzones" by Ma. Cecilia Locsin-Nava (Ateneo)

**Personal Anthology.** "A Makeshift Sun: Stories and Poems" by Gemino H. Abad (UP), and "Mga Kislap ng Panulat" by Epifanio Matute (UP)

**Philosophy.** "Phenomenology: Edmund Husserl and Edith Stein" by Emerita S. Quito (DLSU Press)

**Photojournalism.** "Edsa 2: A Nation in Revolt," edited by Sid C. Balatan and Sheila S. Coronel (Asiapix and Anvil)

**Poetry.** "Morpo" by Allan Popa (Collective Axis), and "Marginal Annotations and Other Poems" by Edith L. Tiempo (Giraffe)

**Reference.** "A Cultural Worker's First Manual: Essays in Appreciating the Everyday" by Felice Sta. Maria (Anvil)

**Sciences.** "Disturbing Climate," edited by Jose T. Villarin, SJ (Manila Observatory)

**Social Sciences.** "Fellow Traveler: Essays on Filipino Communism" by Patricio N. Abinales (UP), "Reflections on Sociology and Philippine Society" by Randolf S. David (UP), and "To Suffer Thy Comrades: How the Revolution Decimated Its Own" by Robert Francis B. Garcia (Anvil)

**Theology and Religion.** "Leaving the Priesthood: A Close Reading of Priestly Departures" by Emmanuel R. Fernandez (Ateneo)

**Translation.** "Spiritual Register: The News Columns of Teodoro M. Kalaw 1926-27," translated by Nick Joaquin (Anvil)

**Travel.** "Cabinet of Wonders and Other Laguna Stories" by Anita Feleo and David Sheniak (Anvil), and "Riding Towards the Sunrise and Other Travel Tales" by Alice M. Sun-Cua (Anvil)

Winning the award for Best Design were "People Power 2: Lessons and Hopes," edited by Thelma Sioson San Juan and designed by Oñate & Perez Inc. (ABS-CBN), and "Street-Bound: Manila on Foot" by Josefina Manahan and designed by Joanne de Leon (Anvil).

The MCC also gave two late awards for 2000: "Vocabulario Tagalog" by Francisco de San Antonio, OFM, edited by Antoon Postma (Pulong: Sources for Philippine Studies, Ateneo de Manila University) in the Dictionaries category, and "Under The Crescent Moon: Rebellion in Mindanao" by Marites Vitug and Glenda Gloria (Center for Social Policy and Public Affairs and Institute for Popular Democracy)in the Journalism category.

The MCC also awarded special citations to three noteworthy series: "Mga Kuwento ni Tito Dok" series by Luis P. Gatmaitan and various artists (OMF Literature), the "Batang Historyador" series by Augie Rivera and various artists (Adarna House and Unicef) and the "Pinoy Classic Cuisine" series by Gene Gonzalez (Anvil).

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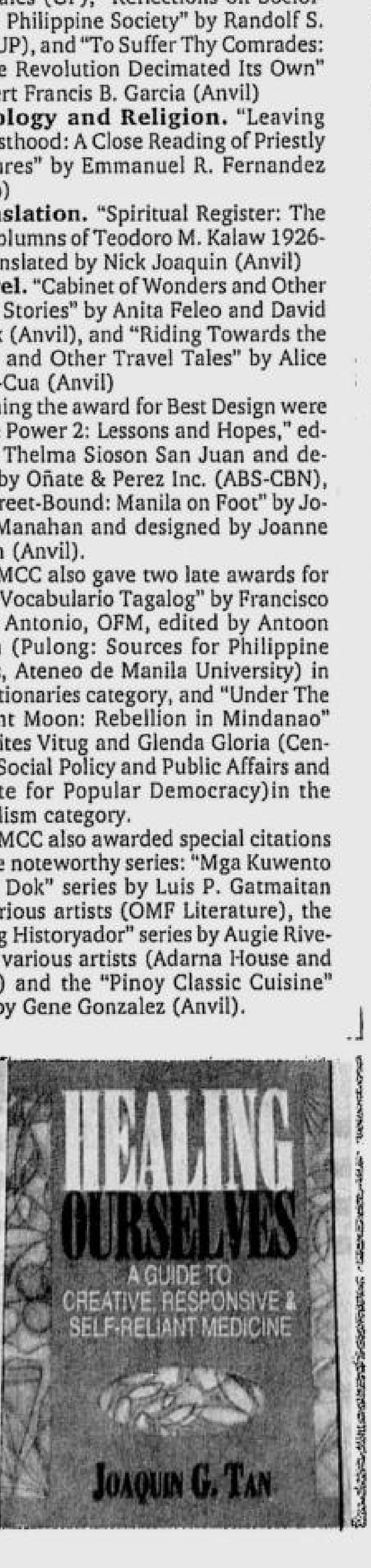
**"HEALING Ourselves: A Guide to Creative, Responsive and Self-reliant Medicine" by Jake Tan is the PowerBooks Book of the Month. It is a pioneering book that tells the readers to recognize the healing forces within them. It draws insights from Western and Eastern healing practices. Tan has done extensive research on nutrition, herbal medicine, naturopathy and homeopathy. He has trained in acupuncture. He will give a talk on alternative medicine on Sept. 28, 4 p.m., at PowerBooks Megamall.**



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# Reading C.S. Lewis

What went into Trumpets' stage adaptation of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'? A lifetime of fondness and fascination for the well-loved classic

By Luna Griño-Inocian
*Contributor*

**OF STAGE**

A SCENE from the hit Trumpets production

THE CHRONICLES of Narnia" by C.S. Lewis was published in the 1950s and since then has become one of the best-loved series of children's books in the world. But, though originally written for children (the first of the Chronicles, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," was written for the author's godchild, Lucy), these seven books have the rare distinction of being required reading for college literature and philosophy students. It is more likely to be found in the Fantasy/Science Fiction section of university bookstores than in the children's section of your local bookstore. Why is that? Well, I can best answer that question through my own experience with them.

I first read "Narnia" when I was 12. My best friend's grandmother had sent her a boxed set and she bragged about it when I went to her house for a weekend sleepover. Even then I was quite the little reader so I picked up "The Lion" and started reading almost immediately.

It was wonderful! I loved "fairy stories" but this one was quite unusual. The descriptions of place and time were so real you almost felt like you were there. The animals were funny and cute but brave. The Witch was beautiful. The children fought their own battles. And the lion... Wow! Aslan was strange but nice... and the whole story seemed vaguely familiar.

Suffice it to say that I ignored my best friend all weekend (I had read three of the books by the time my parents picked me up) and she did not talk to me until I promised I would not read anything in her presence again! She did, however, lend me the rest of the books so I would hurry up and finish them at home... without eating into our time together.

### Rediscovery

High school, boys and socials happened soon thereafter so childhood fascination for fantasy tales flew out the window. But in my second year of college, I chanced upon my American roommate's well-worn copy of (you guessed it!) "The Lion..." At first curious as to what possible use a 19-year-old A. B. English major (she was, not I) would have for this children's book, I picked it up anyway and started reading.

By this time, I considered myself quite a literary connoisseur. I had just finished a 30-page treatise on J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings" for an honor's course class analyzing the history, sociology, geography and theology of Middle Earth. I felt myself beyond this childish fluff. But I was wrong and C.S. Lewis was right on the nose when he wrote on the dedication page of the book, "But someday you will be old enough to start reading fairy stories again. You can then take it down from the upper shelf, dust it, and tell me what you think of it." His words still wove its magic on me and I sat engrossed till I had read it to the very last page!

This time, the simple children's adventure took on a new dimension. I had learned and been fascinated by allegory and this, I thought, was a fine example (though C.S. Lewis protests that it is not an allegory but a supposition). I "saw" clearly what had been vaguely familiar about the story of my youth. It was not merely a glorified "Alice in Wonderland" or a new take on the battle of good against evil. It was the story of Jesus Christ. And though in Narnia he was a Lion, he was still the Savior, the Redeemer! And C.S. Lewis had told it so well I felt I must have been either incredibly dumb or incredibly naïve to have missed it the first time!

After that, I no longer questioned what my roommate was doing with "The Lion," but was nevertheless delighted to learn that it was the subject of her honor's course treatise!

I continued to read "Narnia" periodically in the subsequent years and, each time, I would discover a new side to it. Triggered by a newfound faith and a more intimate knowledge of Jesus Christ, each character or event represented something or someone. Acts of redemption, repentance were recognized and appreciated (both from the literary and theological points of view)... meanings deeper and more inspiring unearthed. I studied it, appreciated it, took joy in it, shared it with everyone I could. I got my husband so hooked on it that he got people reading it backstage at the Insular Life Theater and my children, ages 19-29, are reading it for the umpteenth time just like I did!

### Adaptation

So when Audie Gemora asked Jaime del Mundo (another "Narnia" fan) and I if we would write a musical based on the first book, "The Lion," I gave a resounding, "Of course!"

My best friend of yore, the owner of the very first "Narnia" I read, was in town to catch the premiere run of our musical adaptation. Already a professor of Theology and Women's Studies in UCLA, she admitted that she still loves the books and she does discuss them in her classes at length!

Seems we are both old enough to read fairy stories again and we think "The Chronicles of Narnia" has gone from merely wonderful to absolutely brilliant with the years, and that they are most definitely books for children—no matter what age they are! Even us who are close to the half-century mark!

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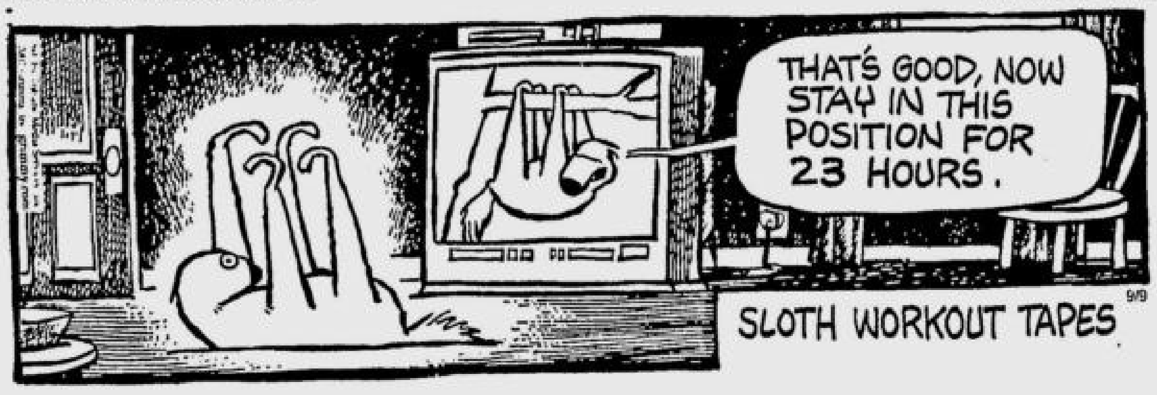
## Amado Hernandez honored

LEO Martinez, Tommy Abuel, Pen Medina, Nanding Josef, Roy Alvarez, Pol Galang and Ronnie Lazaro lead a host of artists, sectoral leaders and activist artists who will give life to the poems of Amado V. Hernandez (1903-1970) 7 p.m., Sept. 14, at the Tanghalang Manuel Conde, Cultural Canter of the Philippines.

"Isang Sining ang Pagdigkas—Gabi ng mga Tula ni Ka Amado," the night of poetry kicks off a year of activities to honor Ka Amado's centenary. The works of the poet, journalist, political detainee, labor leader, nationalist, include "Kung Tuyo na ang Luha Mo, Aking Bayan." "Luha ng Buwaya" and "Ibong Mandaragit" are his two great novels.

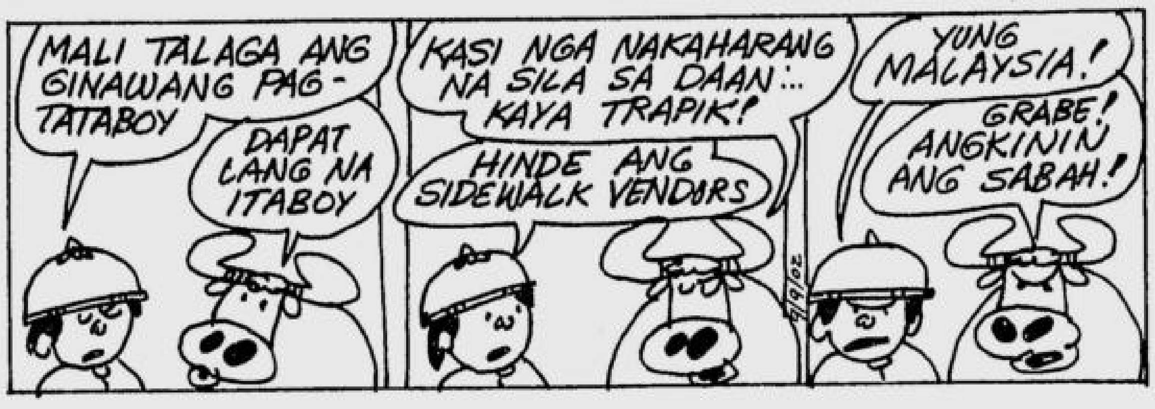
**MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM**

BY MIKE PETERS


THAT'S GOOD, NOW STAY IN THIS POSITION FOR 23 HOURS.
SLOTH WORKOUT TAPES
9/9

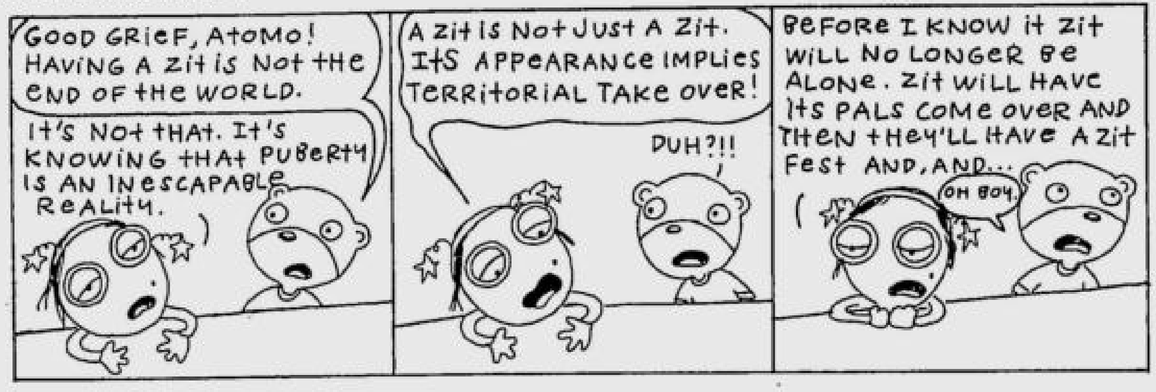
**A. LIPIN**

BY JESS ABRERA


MALI TALAGA ANG GINAWANG PAG-TATABOY
DAPAT LANG NA ITABOY
KASI NGA NAKAHARANG NA SILA SA DAAN... KAYA TRAPIK!
HINDE ANG SIDEWALK VENDORS
YUNG MALAYSIA!
GRABE! ANGKININ ANG SABAH!

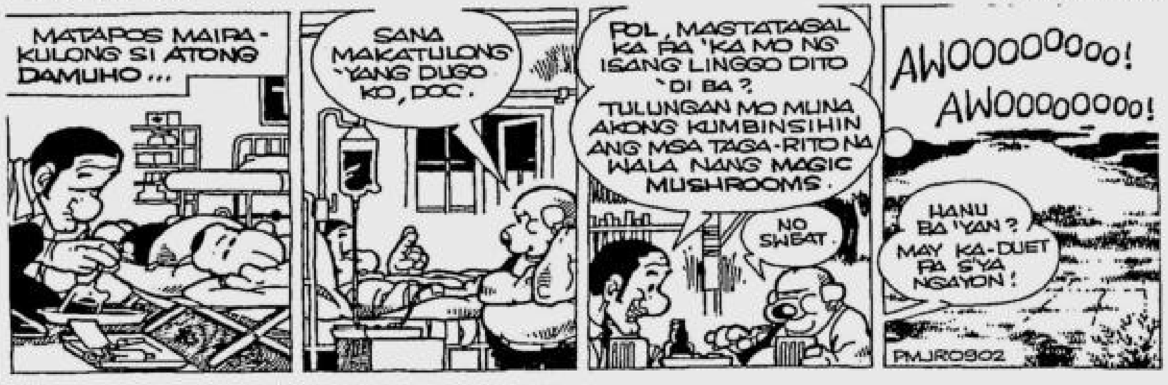
**ATOMO AND WEBOY**

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


GOOD GRIEF, ATOMO! HAVING A ZIT IS NOT THE END OF THE WORLD.
IT'S NOT THAT. IT'S KNOWING THAT PUBERTY IS AN INESCAPABLE REALITY.
A ZIT IS NOT JUST A ZIT. ITS APPEARANCE IMPLIES TERRITORIAL TAKE OVER!
DUH?!!
BEFORE I KNOW IT ZIT WILL NO LONGER BE ALONE. ZIT WILL HAVE ITS PALS COME OVER AND THEN THEY'LL HAVE A ZIT FEST AND, AND...
OH BOY.

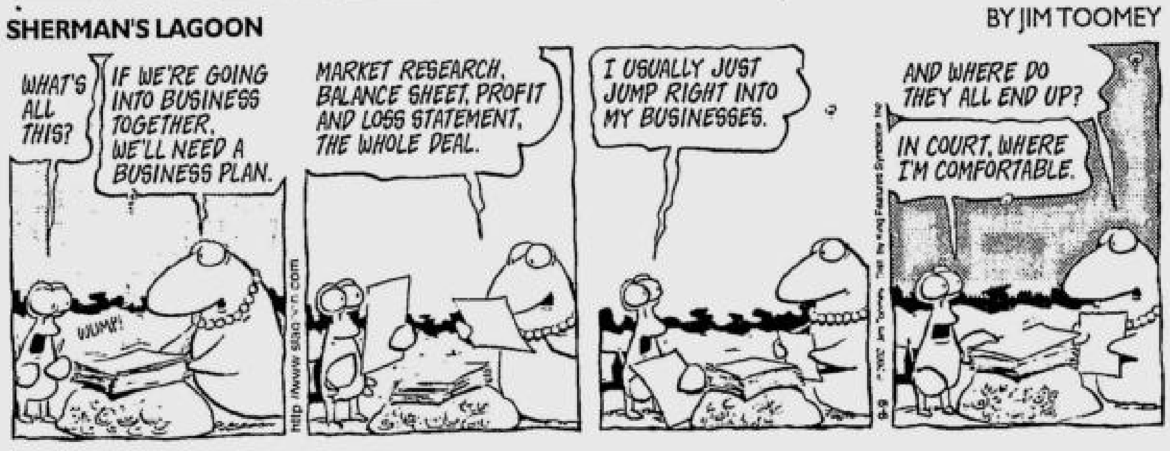
**PUGAD BABOY**

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MATAPOS MAIRA-KULONG SI ATONG DAMUHO...
SANA MAKATULONG 'YANG DUGO KO, DOC.
POL, MAGTATAGAL KA PA 'KA MO NG ISANG LINGGO DITO 'DI BA?
TULUNGAN MO MUNA AKONG KUMBINSIHIN ANG MGA TAGA-RITO NA WALA NANG MAGIC MUSHROOMS.
NO SWEAT.
AWOOOOOOOoo!
AWOOOOOOOOO!
HANU BA 'YAN?
MAY KA-DUET PA S'YA NGAYON!
PMJR0802

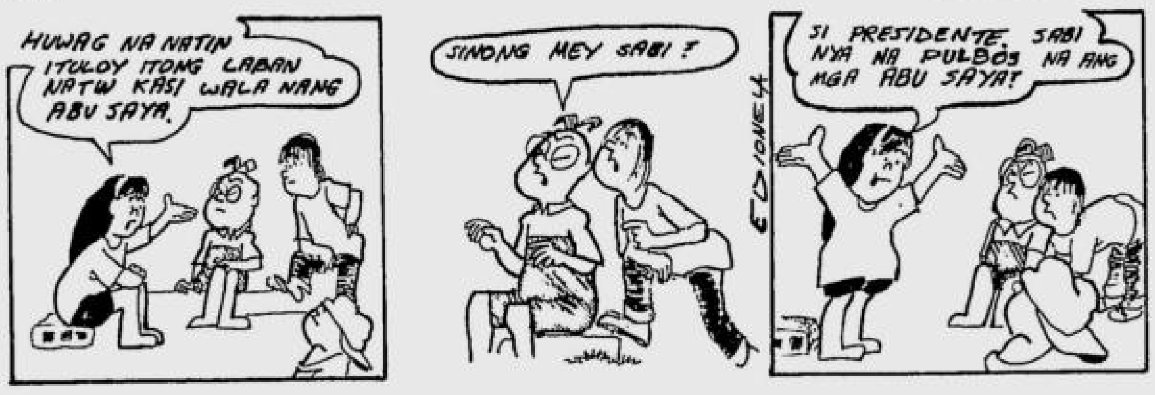
**SHERMAN'S LAGOON**

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT'S ALL THIS?
IF WE'RE GOING INTO BUSINESS TOGETHER, WE'LL NEED A BUSINESS PLAN.
WUMP!
MARKET RESEARCH, BALANCE SHEET, PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT, THE WHOLE DEAL.
I USUALLY JUST JUMP RIGHT INTO MY BUSINESSES.
AND WHERE DO THEY ALL END UP?
IN COURT, WHERE I'M COMFORTABLE.

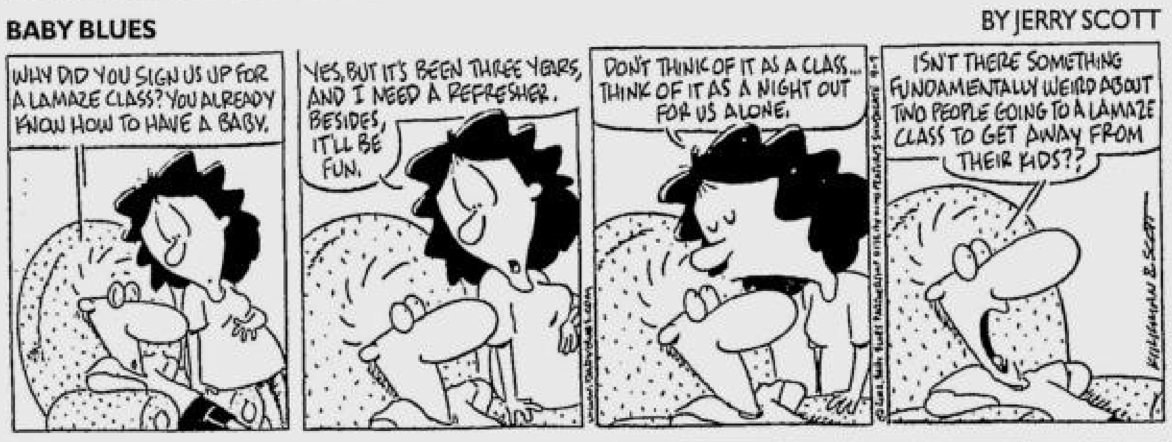
**SIMO**

BY EDGAR DIONELA


HUWAG NA NATIN ITULOY ITONG LABAN NATIN KASI WALA NANG ABU SAYA.
SINONG MEY SABI?
SI PRESIDENTE. SABI NYA NA PULBOS NA ANG MGA ABU SAYAF
E DIONELA

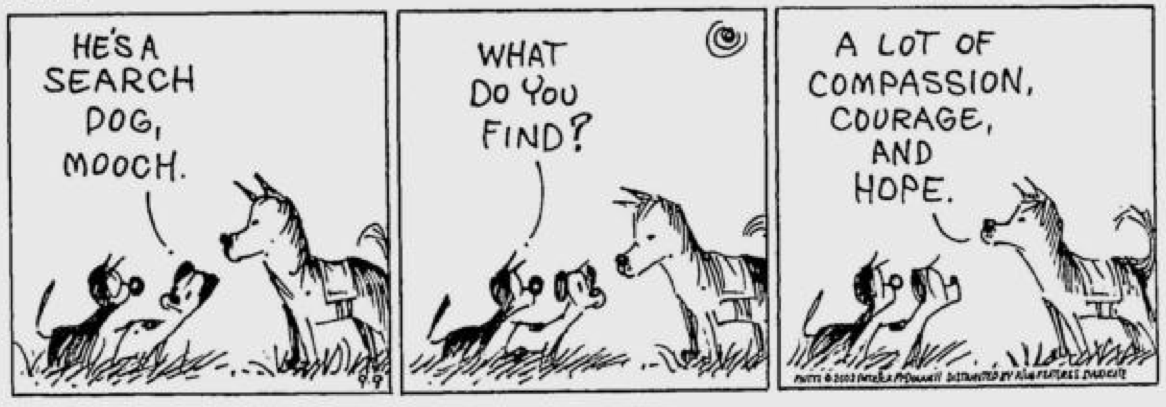
**BABY BLUES**

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHY DID YOU SIGN US UP FOR A LAMAZE CLASS? YOU ALREADY KNOW HOW TO HAVE A BABY.
YES, BUT IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS, AND I NEED A REFRESHER.
BESIDES, IT'LL BE FUN.
DON'T THINK OF IT AS A CLASS... THINK OF IT AS A NIGHT OUT FOR US ALONE.
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING FUNDAMENTALLY WEIRD ABOUT TWO PEOPLE GOING TO A LAMAZE CLASS TO GET AWAY FROM THEIR KIDS??
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

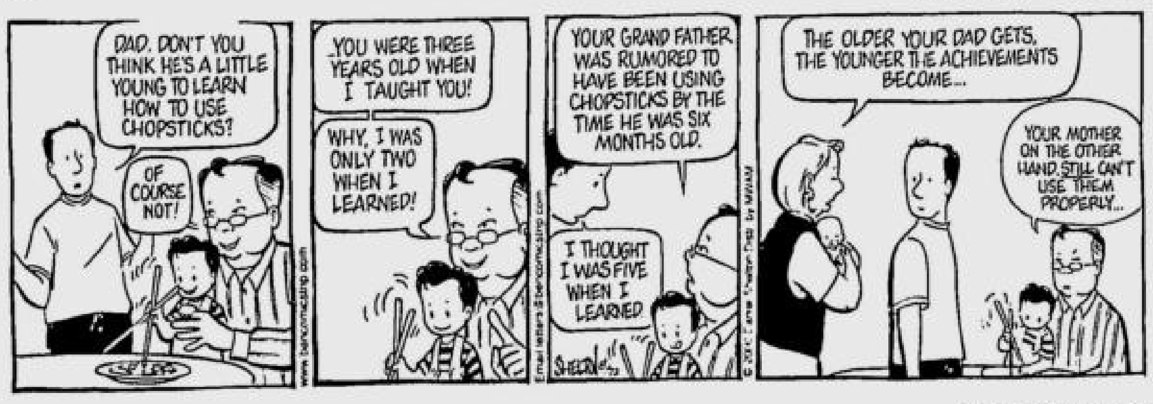
**MUTTS**

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HE'S A SEARCH DOG, MOOCH.
WHAT DO YOU FIND?
A LOT OF COMPASSION, COURAGE, AND HOPE.

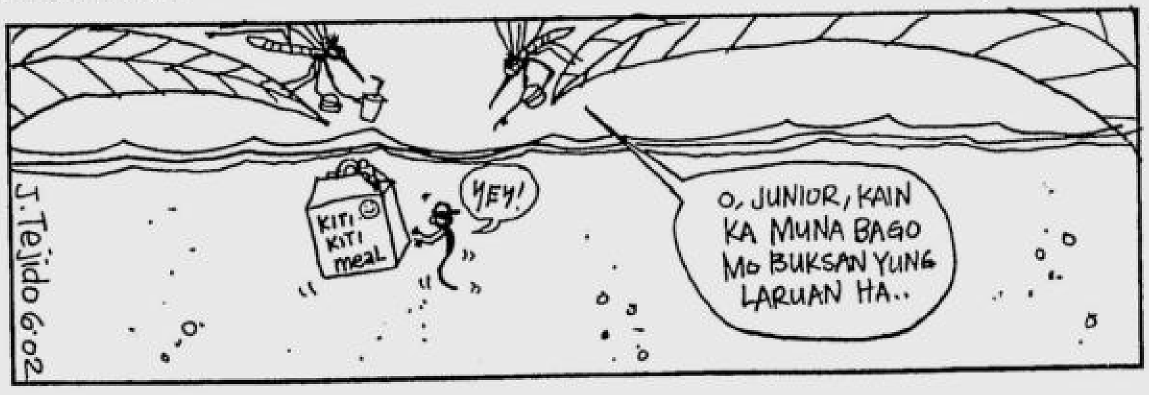
**BEN**

BY DANIEL SHELTON


DAD, DON'T YOU THINK HE'S A LITTLE YOUNG TO LEARN HOW TO USE CHOPSTICKS?
OF COURSE NOT!
YOU WERE THREE YEARS OLD WHEN I TAUGHT YOU!
WHY, I WAS ONLY TWO WHEN I LEARNED!
YOUR GRAND FATHER WAS RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN USING CHOPSTICKS BY THE TIME HE WAS SIX MONTHS OLD.
I THOUGHT I WAS FIVE WHEN I LEARNED.
THE OLDER YOUR DAD GETS, THE YOUNGER THE ACHIEVEMENTS BECOME...
YOUR MOTHER ON THE OTHER HAND, STILL CAN'T USE THEM PROPERLY...

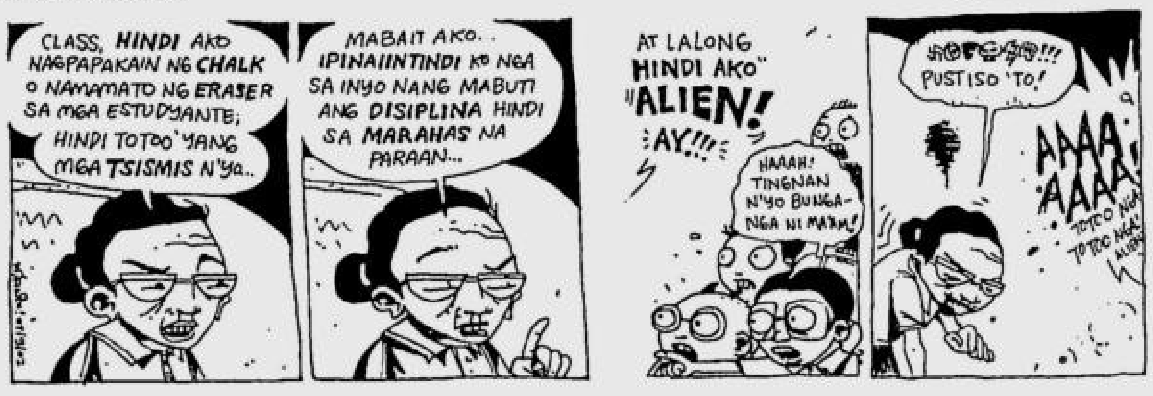
**MIKROKOSMOS**

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KITI KITI meal
YEY!
O, JUNIOR, KAIN KA MUNA BAGO MO BUKSAN YUNG LARUAN HA..
J. Tejido 6·02

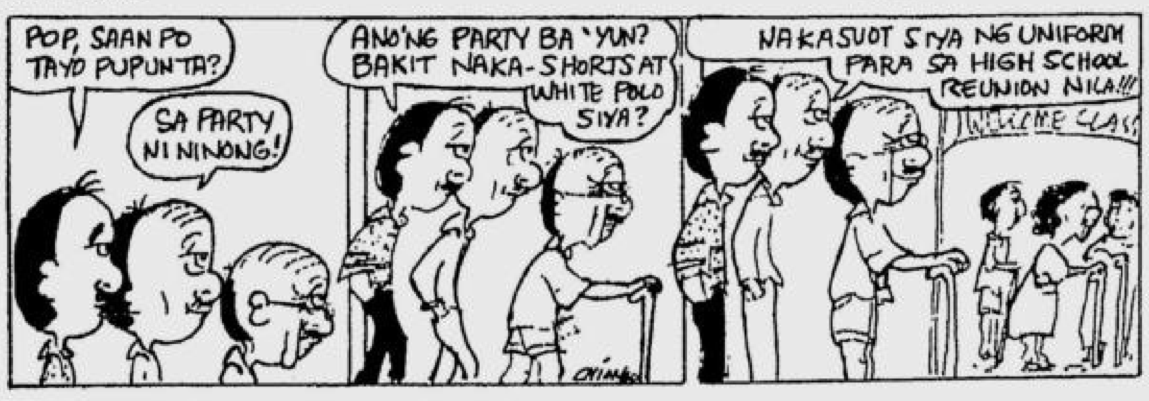
**KIKO MACHINE**

BY MANIX ABRERA


CLASS, HINDI AKO NAGPAPAKAIN NG CHALK O NAMAMATO NG ERASER SA MGA ESTUDYANTE;
HINDI TOTOO 'YANG MGA TSISMIS N'YA..
MABAIT AKO..
IPINAIINTINDI KO NGA SA INYO NANG MABUTI ANG DISIPLINA HINDI SA MARAHAS NA PARAAN...
AT LALONG HINDI AKO "ALIEN!"
AY!!!
HAAAH! TINGNAN N'YO BUNGA-NGA NI MA'AM!
PUSTISO 'TO!
AAAA AAAA!
TOTOO NGA! TOTOO NGA! ALIEN

**LOVEKNOTS**

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO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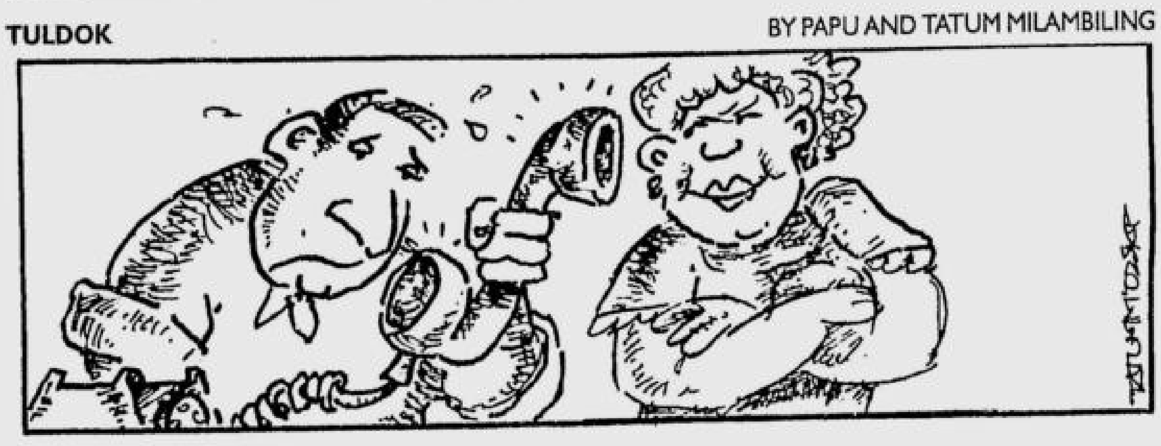
NAKASUOT SIYA NG UNIFORM PARA SA HIGH SCHOOL REUNION NILA!!!
WELCOME CLASS

**TULDOK**

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



# HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

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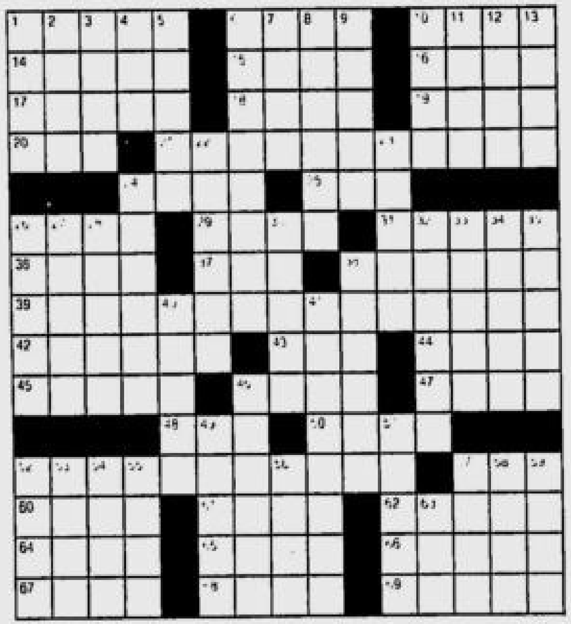
# DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

9/9/02

**ACROSS**
1 Seraglio
6 Sandwich shop
10 Obligation
14 Wonderland visitor
15 Dash
16 Racer Luyendyk
17 Crenshaw or honeydew
18 __ Hari
19 Small fry
20 I told you so
21 Diamond heists?
24 Enticement
25 Teachers' org.
26 Humane org.
29 Central idea
31 Tic
36 River to the Caspian
37 King of France
38 Spanish holiday
39 Poe's postal problem?
42 Goes in
43 Napoleon's marshal
44 Count (on)
45 Spanish lariat
46 Niger's neighbor
47 Mine products
48 Numbers pro
50 Organic compound
52 Felon's breakfast?
57 Healthy retreat
60 Jason's ship
61 Inter-campus sports org.
62 Nile dam
64 H.S. student
65 Old-time political cartoonist
66 Protect
67 Little Joe's brother
68 "Pursuit of the Graf __"
69 Vacuous

**DOWN**
1 Bad actors
2 Out of the wind
3 Stir up
4 "The Name of the Rose" author
5 Table constellation
6 Loss of rank
7 Israeli carrier
8 Dormant
9 Puerile
10 Factual information
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24 Tutu's milieu
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27 Former plum
28 Magna __
30 Tuscany city
32 Gas in Gloucester
33 Fall bloomer
34 Inscribed stone marker
35 Martin and Pickford
38 Type of squirrel or fish
40 Spinachlike plant
41 Representative
46 Zany
49 William and Sean
51 Missouri feeder
52 Way to go
53 Nabisco treat
54 Puts on years
55 Swindles
56 Palliate
57 Kind of meet
58 Separate
59 Actor Garcia
63 Totality

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | L | U | M | E | ■ | S | E | A | S | C | A | P | E | S |
| R | A | N | O | N | ■ | P | A | T | H | O | L | O | G | Y |
| O | T | T | O | S | ■ | A | R | L | I | N | G | T | O | N |
| P | R | A | T | E | S | ■ | L | A | R | G | E | S | S | E |
| H | A | L | ■ | N | A | G | ■ | S | E | E | R | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| E | V | E | ■ | A | L | O | E | ■ | ■ | R | I | F | F | S |
| T | I | N | ■ | D | A | R | R | O | W | ■ | A | L | O | T |
| E | A | T | ■ | A | D | M | I | R | E | D | ■ | O | R | E |
| S | T | E | P | ■ | S | E | N | I | L | E | ■ | R | E | V |
| S | A | D | A | T | ■ | ■ | S | E | L | F | ■ | I | C | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | T | A | R | O | ■ | L | E | E | ■ | B | A | N |
| O | R | D | E | R | E | R | S | ■ | S | C | H | U | S | S |
| P | O | O | L | T | A | B | L | E | ■ | T | O | N | T | O |
| U | L | U | L | A | T | I | O | N | ■ | O | L | D | E | N |
| S | E | P | A | R | A | T | E | D | ■ | R | E | A | D | S |

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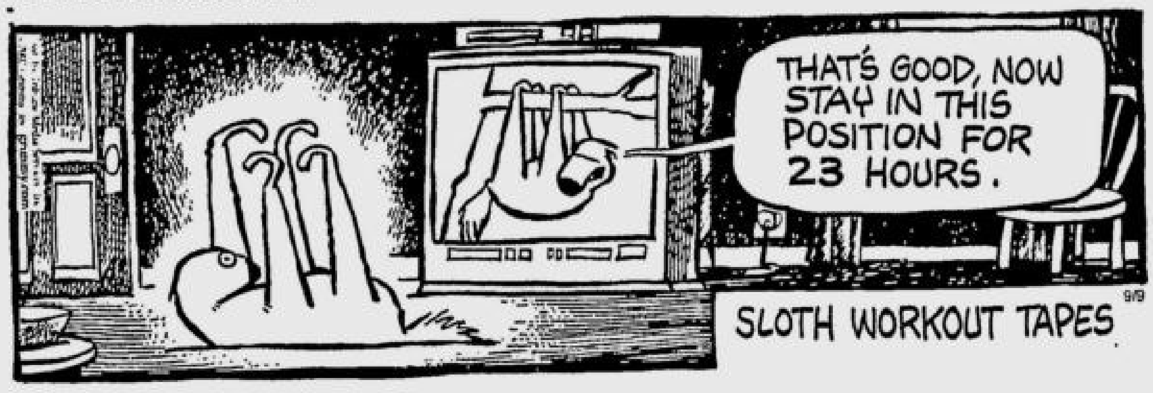
9/9/02

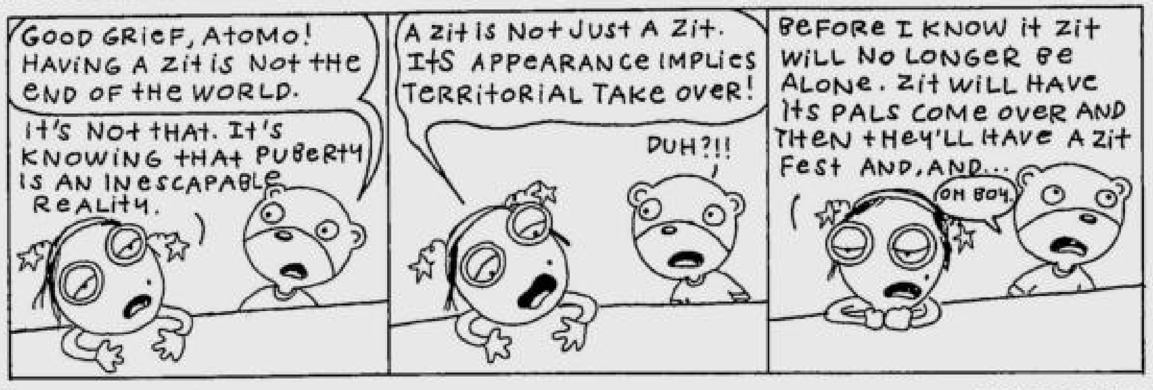
### MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


THAT'S GOOD, NOW STAY IN THIS POSITION FOR 23 HOURS.
SLOTH WORKOUT TAPES
9/9

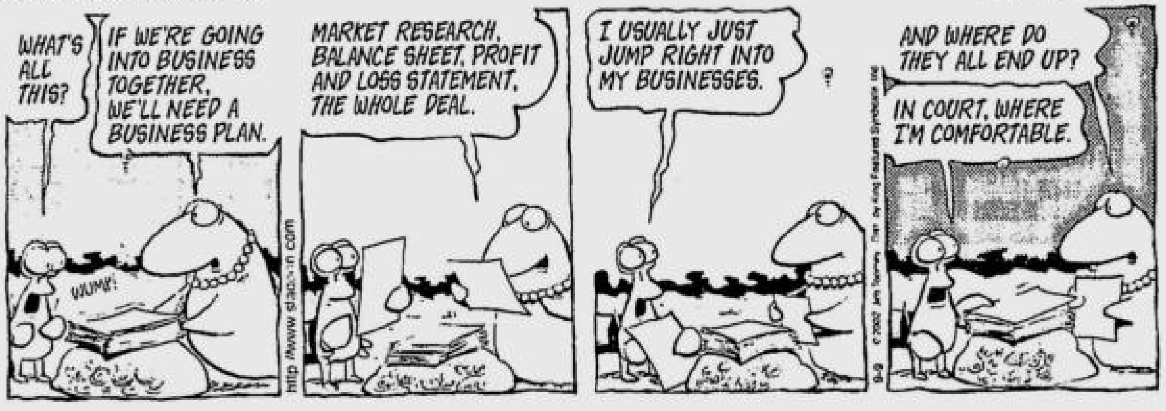
### ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


GOOD GRIEF, ATOMO! HAVING A ZIT IS NOT THE END OF THE WORLD.
IT'S NOT THAT. IT'S KNOWING THAT PUBERTY IS AN INESCAPABLE REALITY.
A ZIT IS NOT JUST A ZIT. ITS APPEARANCE IMPLIES TERRITORIAL TAKE OVER!
DUH?!!
BEFORE I KNOW IT ZIT WILL NO LONGER BE ALONE. ZIT WILL HAVE ITS PALS COME OVER AND THEN THEY'LL HAVE A ZIT FEST AND, AND...
OH BOY.

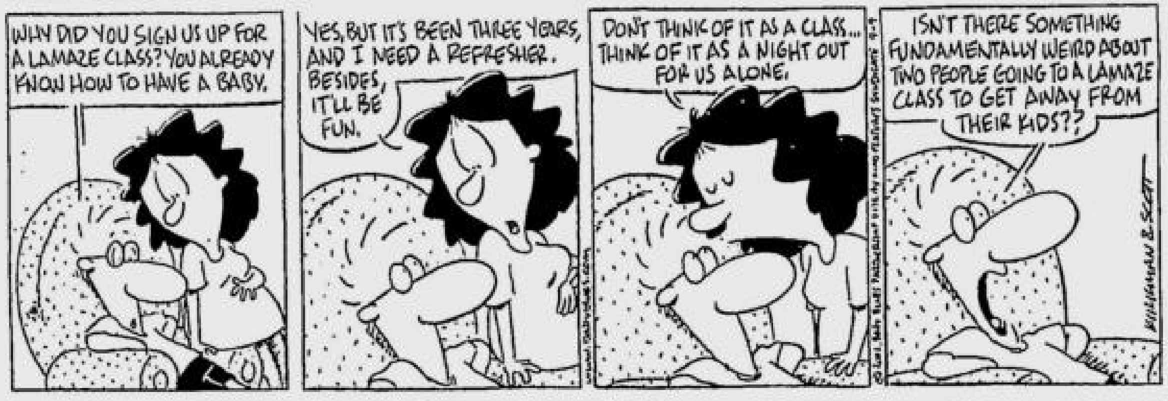
### SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT'S ALL THIS?
IF WE'RE GOING INTO BUSINESS TOGETHER, WE'LL NEED A BUSINESS PLAN.
WUMP!
MARKET RESEARCH, BALANCE SHEET, PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT, THE WHOLE DEAL.
I USUALLY JUST JUMP RIGHT INTO MY BUSINESSES.
?
AND WHERE DO THEY ALL END UP?
IN COURT, WHERE I'M COMFORTABLE.
http://www.slagoon.com

### BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHY DID YOU SIGN US UP FOR A LAMAZE CLASS? YOU ALREADY KNOW HOW TO HAVE A BABY.
YES, BUT IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS, AND I NEED A REFRESHER.
BESIDES, IT'LL BE FUN.
DON'T THINK OF IT AS A CLASS... THINK OF IT AS A NIGHT OUT FOR US ALONE.
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING FUNDAMENTALLY WEIRD ABOUT TWO PEOPLE GOING TO A LAMAZE CLASS TO GET AWAY FROM THEIR KIDS??
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

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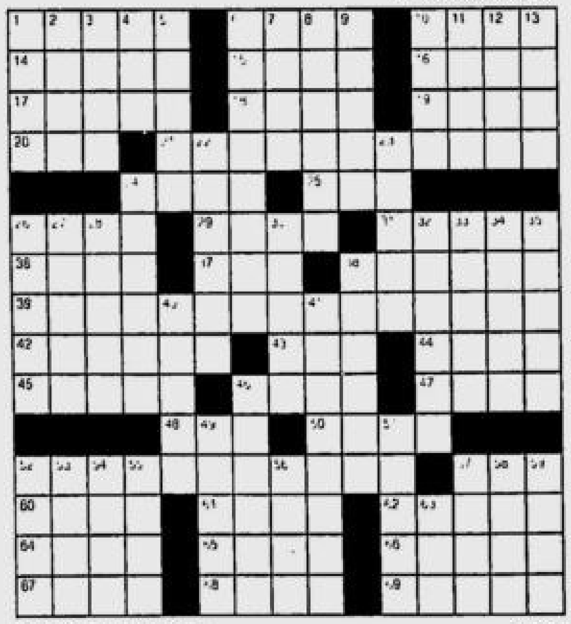

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27 Former plum
28 Magna __
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51 Missouri feeder
52 Way to go
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| R | A | N | O | N | ■ | P | A | T | H | O | L | O | G | Y |
| O | T | T | O | S | ■ | A | R | L | I | N | G | T | O | N |
| P | R | A | T | E | S | ■ | L | A | R | G | E | S | S | E |
| H | A | L | ■ | N | A | G | ■ | S | E | E | R | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| E | V | E | ■ | A | L | O | E | ■ | ■ | R | I | F | F | S |
| T | I | N | ■ | D | A | R | R | O | W | ■ | A | L | O | T |
| E | A | T | ■ | A | D | M | I | R | E | D | ■ | O | R | E |
| S | T | E | P | ■ | S | E | N | I | L | E | ■ | R | E | V |
| S | A | D | A | T | ■ | ■ | S | E | L | F | ■ | I | C | E |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | T | A | R | O | ■ | L | E | E | ■ | B | A | N |
| O | R | D | E | R | E | R | S | ■ | S | C | H | U | S | S |
| P | O | O | L | T | A | B | L | E | ■ | T | O | N | T | O |
| U | L | U | L | A | T | I | O | N | ■ | O | L | D | E | N |
| S | E | P | A | R | A | T | E | D | ■ | R | E | A | D | S |

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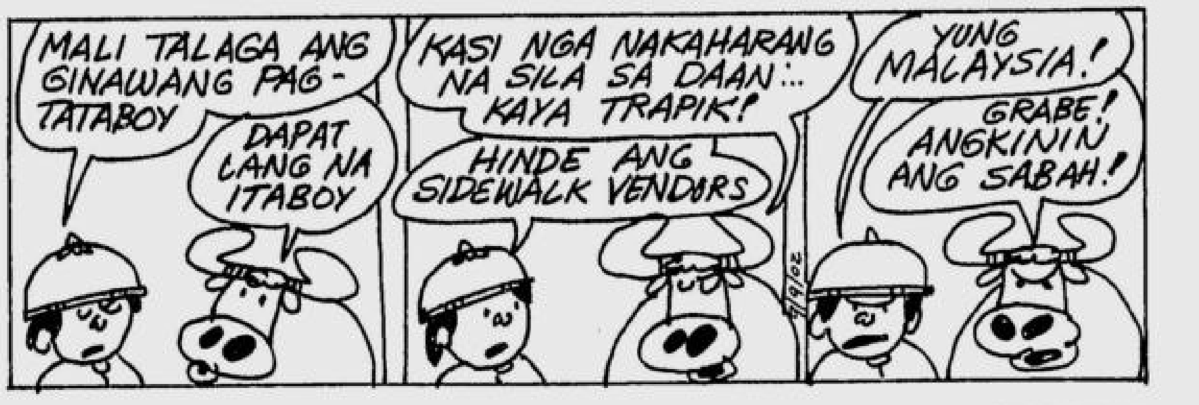
9/9/02

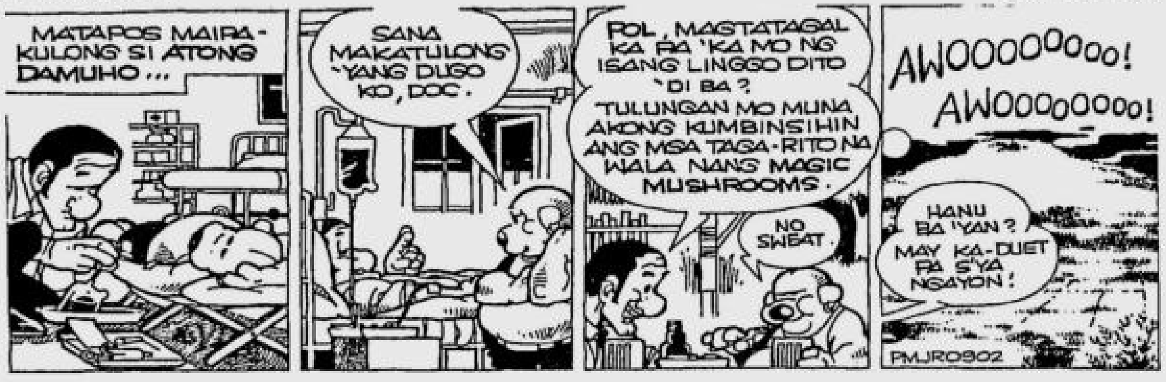
### A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MALI TALAGA ANG GINAWANG PAG-TATABOY
DAPAT LANG NA ITABOY
KASI NGA NAKAHARANG NA SILA SA DAAN... KAYA TRAPIK!
HINDE ANG SIDEWALK VENDORS
9/9/02
YUNG MALAYSIA!
GRABE! ANGKININ ANG SABAH!

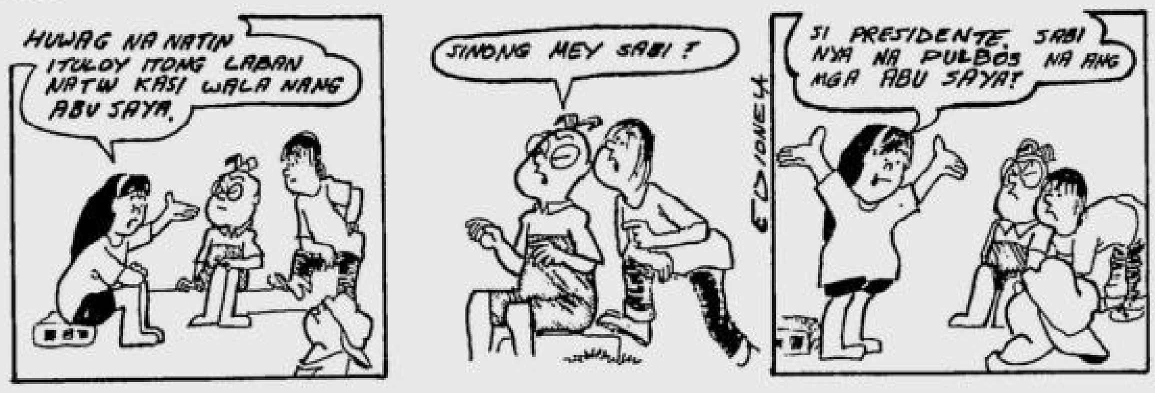
### PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MATAPOS MAIRA-KULONG SI ATONG DAMUHO...
SANA MAKATULONG 'YANG DUGO KO, DOC.
POL, MAGTATAGAL KA PA 'KAMO NG ISANG LINGGO DITO 'DI BA?
TULUNGAN MO MUNA AKONG KUMBINSIHIN ANG MGA TAGA-RITO NA WALA NANG MAGIC MUSHROOMS.
NO SWEAT.
AWOOOOOOOO!
AWOOOOOOOO!
HANU BA 'YAN?
MAY KA-DUET PA S'YA NGAYON!
PMJR0902

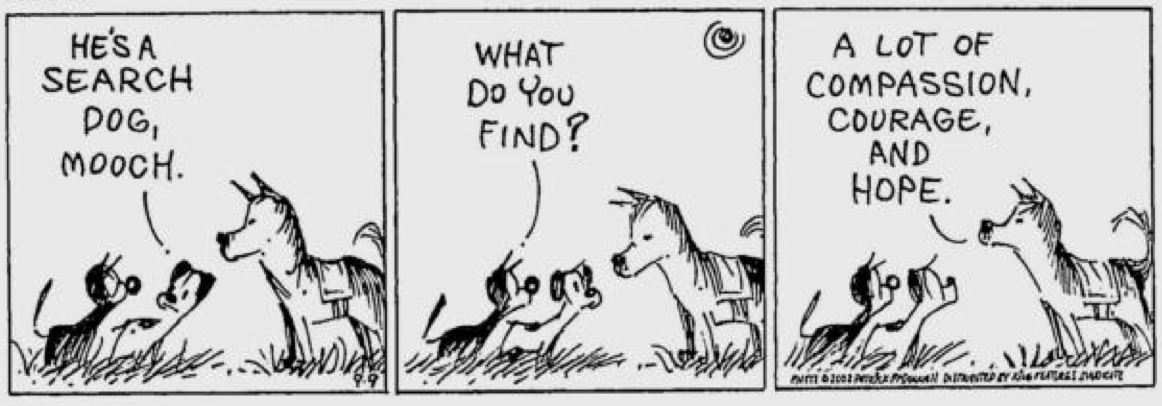
### SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


HUWAG NA NATIN ITULOY ITONG LABAN NATW KASI WALA NANG ABU SAYA.
SINONG MEY SABI?
E DIONELA
SI PRESIDENTE. SABI NYA NA PULBOS NA ANG MGA ABU SAYAF

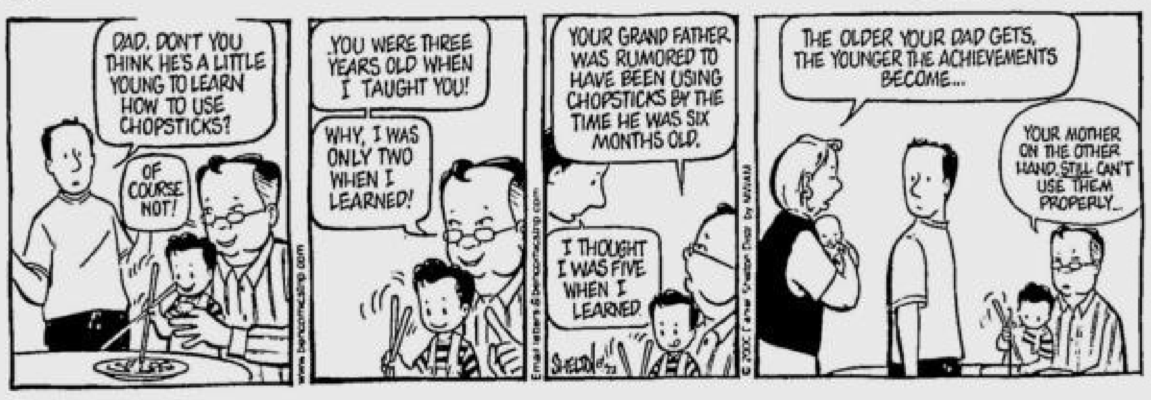
### MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HE'S A SEARCH DOG, MOOCH.
9-9
WHAT DO YOU FIND?
A LOT OF COMPASSION, COURAGE, AND HOPE.

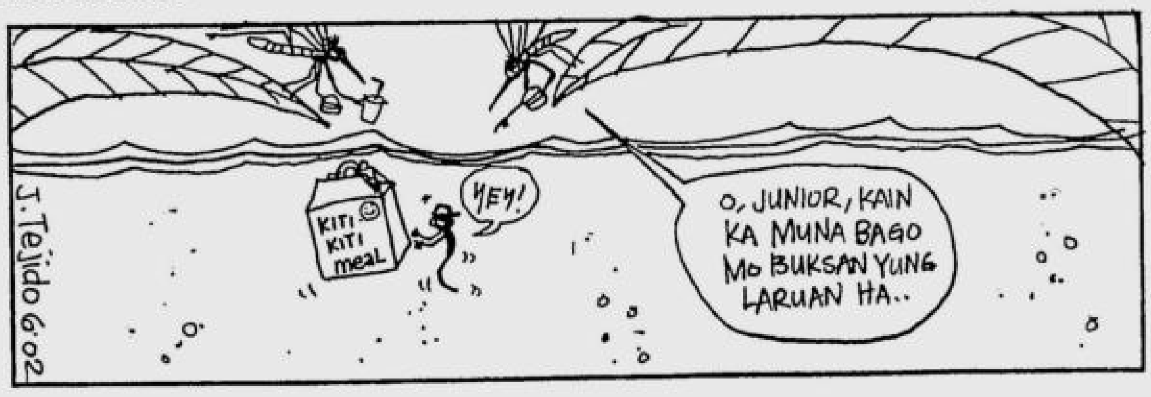
### BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


DAD, DON'T YOU THINK HE'S A LITTLE YOUNG TO LEARN HOW TO USE CHOPSTICKS?
OF COURSE NOT!
YOU WERE THREE YEARS OLD WHEN I TAUGHT YOU!
WHY, I WAS ONLY TWO WHEN I LEARNED!
YOUR GRAND FATHER WAS RUMORED TO HAVE BEEN USING CHOPSTICKS BY THE TIME HE WAS SIX MONTHS OLD.
I THOUGHT I WAS FIVE WHEN I LEARNED.
SHELTON
THE OLDER YOUR DAD GETS, THE YOUNGER THE ACHIEVEMENTS BECOME...
YOUR MOTHER ON THE OTHER HAND, STILL CAN'T USE THEM PROPERLY...

### MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO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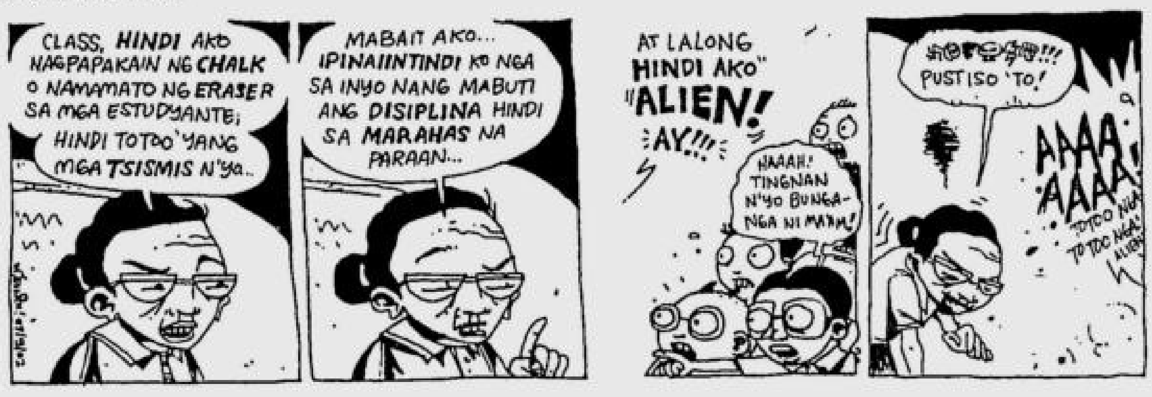
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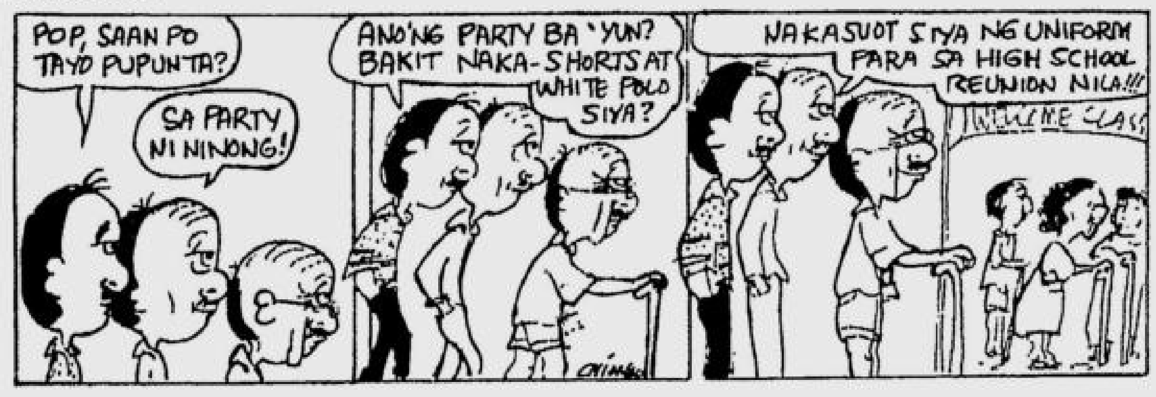
HINDI TOTOO 'YANG MGA TSISMIS N'YA..
MABAIT AKO... IPINAIINTINDI KO NGA SA INYO NANG MABUTI ANG DISIPLINA HINDI SA MARAHAS NA PARAAN...
AT LALONG HINDI AKO "ALIEN!"
AY!!!
HAAAH! TINGNAN N'YO BUNGA-NGA NI MAAM!
PUSTISO 'TO!
AAAA! AAAA!
TOTOO NGA! TOTOO NGA!

### LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO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WELCOME CLASS

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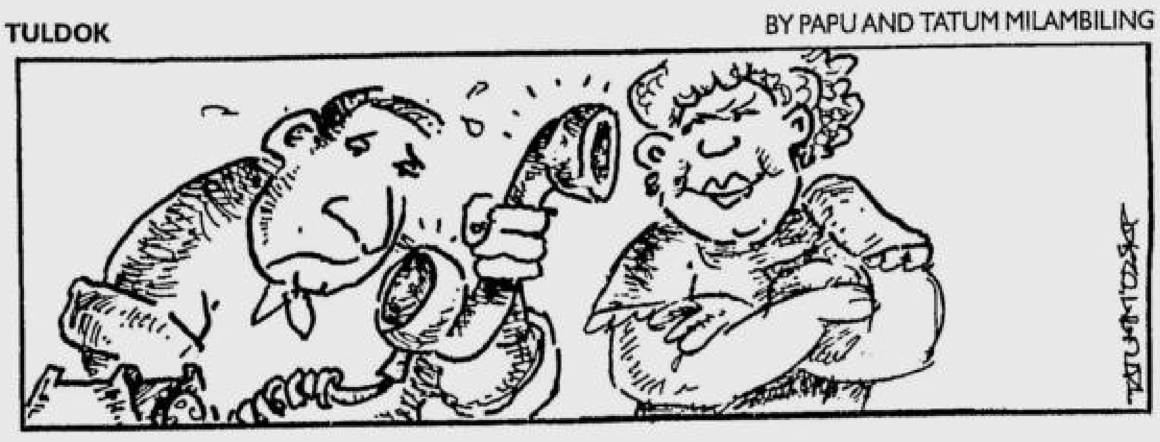
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



LEONARDA Camacho, Dr. Martha Taylor, Australian Ambassador Ruth Lorraine Pearce, Brunei Ambassador Maimunah Dato Elias, Dr. Teruko Haga, Nilufar Zaman and Consul Evie Costa

STANDING from left: Nini Licaros, Consul Fortune Ledesma, Ambassador Pearce and Letty Syquia; (seated) Irmgard Krepela, Dr. Haga, Mellie Ablaza and Susan Sandover

# Welcome party for lady envoys

CHLOE Romulo Periquet

MANOLING Collantes and Chito Madrigal Collantes

BEN Farrales, PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Rosa Rosal and PDI chair Marixi Prieto

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

## DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

*By Amiga*

THE FRIENDS for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP) had its second Home Concert Series to present young scholars at the home of its founding chair, **Chito M. Collantes.**

Serving as emcee and director of the concert was **Tessie Luz.** The chair was **Letty Syquia**, who, sadly, could not attend despite having worked so hard for the afternoon's success due to the passing away of her brother, Carlos. FCCP president **Chloe Periquet** and her board members should also be congratulated for a show that was SRO.

If you have the chance to catch a concert of the Las Piñas Elementary School Rondalla, directed by **Elaine Cajucom**, grab it. The children are a joy to hear.

Not to be outdone was nine-year-old **Ma. Regina Montesclaros**, who began her piano lessons at the age of 5. She played selections from Bach, Mozart and Schuman in the concert. No doubt we will be hearing more from this young lady.

The Sanghiyas Dance Troupe, the resident dance troupe of the Philippine High School for the Arts, composed of 12- to 14-year-old folk dancers, was also a pleasure to watch. The program was closed by mezzo soprano **Agnes Garcia Barredo** and baritone **Marvin Gayramon,** and by a ballet number by **Camille Ordinraio Joson** and **Clark Rambuyon** of Ballet Philippines.

* * *

Unilever is known for a lot of products, but it has also been making a name for itself in its interests in environmental projects, like the revival of the dead-as-a-doornail Pasig River and, now, Laguna de Bay (a little bit more hope here). It has commissioned two books from New York-based cultural worker, writer, choreographer, dancer, chef, culinary historian, columnist and author of several books on the arts and culture, **Rey Alejandro**.

The first book was on the Pasig, launched last year, and another on Laguna de Bay. The launch of "Laguna de Bay: The Living Lake" at the Manila Pen coincided with Unilever's 75th anniversary, and turned out to be another of those SRO affairs, with President **Macapagal-Arroyo** as guest of honor.

Unilever global chairman **Anthony Burgman** came all the way from Rotterdam for the event. Environment Secretary **Heherson Alvarez** and Unilever Philippines chairman and CEO **Howard Belton** sat with the President and Mr. Burgman.

An excellent short musical number by the Black Theatre Group was so well received that the President went on stage to congratulate the performers. All guests were gifted with a generous bag of Unilever products on their way home.

Among the guests were Netherlands Ambassador and Mme. **Theo Arnold**, **Ado Escudero**, **Ben Farrales** and **Rosa Rosal**, **Louie** and **Melly Ablaza**, **Odeztki Alcantara**, Mr. and Ms **Chito Macapagal**, INQUIRER chair **Marixi Prieto**, INQUIRER president **Sandy P. Romualdez**, **Mila Magsaysay Valenzuela**, Marinduque Rep. **Carmencita Reyes**, and, of course, the big man himself, Rey Alejandro.

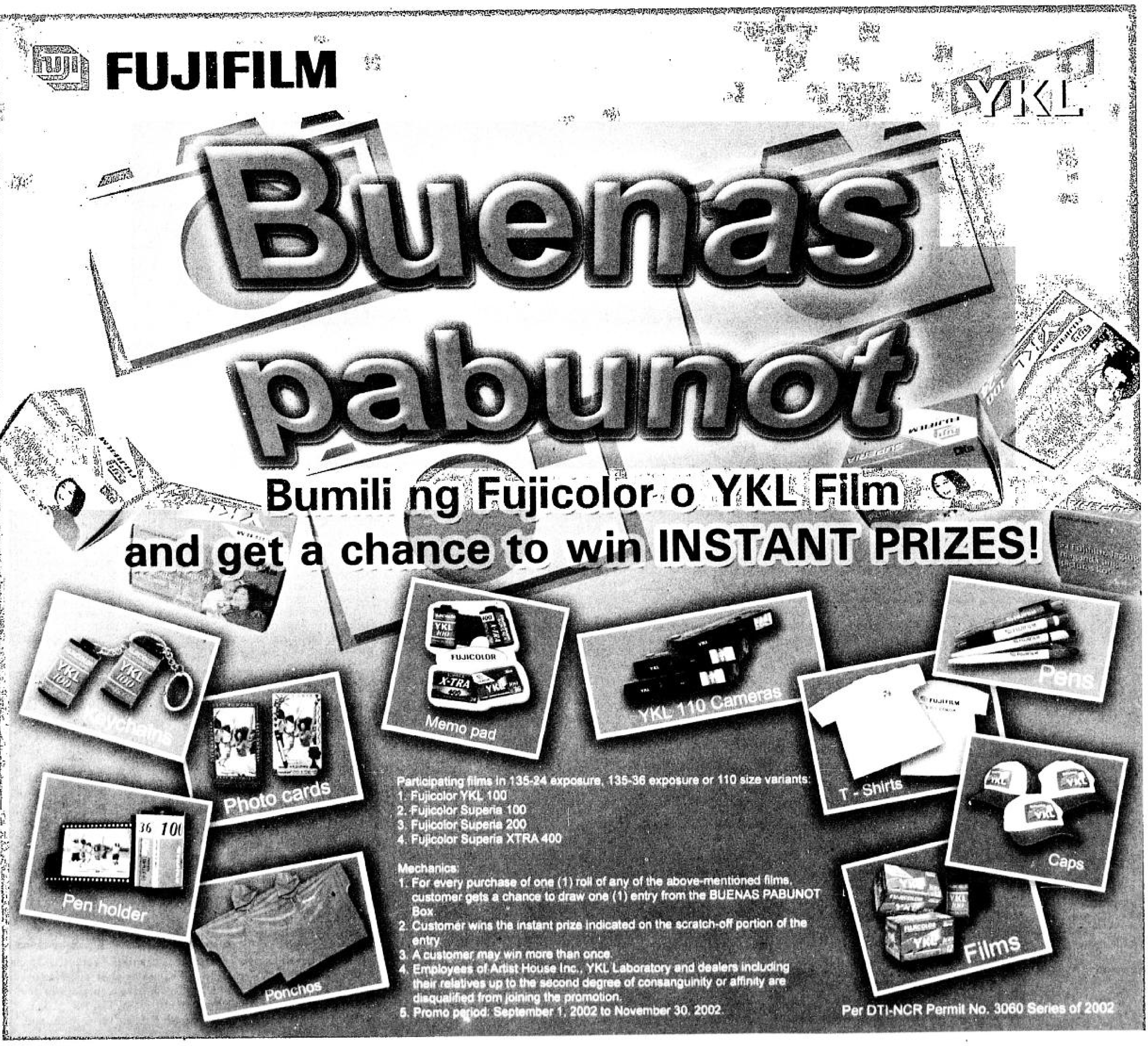
* * *

The Metro Manila Council of Women Balikatan Movement, **Narda Camacho**'s baby (no, not the secretary of finance), hosted at the Polo Club its traditional welcome party for newly arrived lady ambassadors (once the one from Switzerland arrives, there'll be nine of them!) and the spouses of new ambassadors.

The honorees were Australian Ambassador **Ruth Lorraine Pearce**, Brunei Ambassador **Hajah Maimunah Dato Haji Elias**, French Ambassador **Renee Veyret**, **Nilufar Zaman** (wife of Bangladesh Ambassador **Munir-Uz Zaman**), **Han Hyung-Wook**, (wife of Korean Ambassador **Son Sang-Ha**), and newly appointed consul to Belize, **Helen Ong**.

The early bird catches the worm and so on: Be on the lookout for the French fair and sale at Rockwell starting today. And don't forget your one minute of prayer on 9/11, Wednesday, for all victims of terrorists and their families.

ANTHONY Burgman, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez, Reynaldo Alejandro, President Macapagal and Howard Belton



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3060 Series of 2002

# Christian music goes mainstream

By Angeli A. Alagcan
*Contributor*

ONLY a few experience "love at first song." Efrem and Glenna Malaki were among the few lucky ones.

It was God's music that first brought them together. It was also the same kind of music that would lead to their singing their way to marriage, and to the union of two clans that one day would give birth to what is now known as Vima Inspirational Music.

Efrem was a college student when he joined the choir of UCCP Ellinwood Malate Church in Manila. It was here that he met his future wife Glenna Theresa Vigilia. The two fell in love and decided to tie the knot four years later.

Efrem, an electrical engineering graduate of Adamson University, had no idea that he would one day be a Christian music artist.

"I had to find a reason," Efrem said. And a reason for creating music was what he indeed found. A friend suggested that they produce an album. It was there where he realized the source of his happiness and motivation. And the greatest gift of all was that he got the full support of his wife.

Efrem was lucky to have married Glenna, not only because she's a good wife and mother, but also because she has the talent and flair for music. Glenna is a graduate of the Conservatory of Music of the Philippine Women's University.

### Serving the Lord

Vima (Vigilia and Malaki families), was organized on Oct. 11, 1999, after the families of Efrem and Glenna agreed to serve the Lord through music.

Its mission centers on the love of Christ as taken from the letter of Paul during his two-year imprisonment in Rome. Thus, the inspiration of Ephesians 5:19-20—"Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs; sing and make music in your hearts to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ"—prompted the family members to produce and revive more hymns praising the Lord.

Recording company Vima shares the same undertaking every other Christian has—to preach the gospel through music

To date, Vima has released three Christian albums, "Living for Jesus," "The Master's Call" and "In His Name," featuring revivals of well-loved church hymns as well as original compositions.

Brothers Sam and Efrem Malaki, both tenors, sing while Glenna writes some of the original compositions. There are also singles performed by Tricia Amper Jimenez, a Gospel recording artist and host of GMA's "The Club," and Lois Malaki-Espinosa, a former Philippine Madrigal singer.

Sam and Efrem—Longlong and Undoy to family and friends—are members of the musically inclined Dadap and Malaki families of Hinunangan, Southern Leyte. Their mother, Lumy Dadap Malaki, directs a church choir in their hometown. They are also the brothers of former Philippine Madrigal singers Sal'my Neo Malaki and Lois Malaki-Espinosa and nephews of the famous classic guitar artist Michael Dadap and composer-arranger Jerry Dadap.

### Cultivating their talents

The two cultivated their singing talent in their teens by joining various choirs and singing groups such as the Andres Bonifacio Choir, Singers Harmonics, Musica Sacra, the Alumni Philippine Madrigal Singers (now called The Choral Ensemble) and the Ellinwood Malate Church Youth and Chancel Choirs. After launching their three albums, the talented brothers performed solo and duet parts in concerts, cantatas and stage musicales.

Efrem was cast last year in "Refuge and Strength," a true-to-life drama-musical that starred Pinky Marquez, Audie Gemora and Dulce, and was directed by Behn Cervantes.

Reynaldo Vigilia, Glenna's father and Vima executive producer, says that Vima shares the same undertaking that every other Christian has, whose main mission and objective is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ through music.

He also says that the music of Sam and Efrem Malaki is non-sectarian, pointing out that some of the revivals in the albums are from the Catholic Church. Glenna considers Vima one of her God-inspired achievements in life.

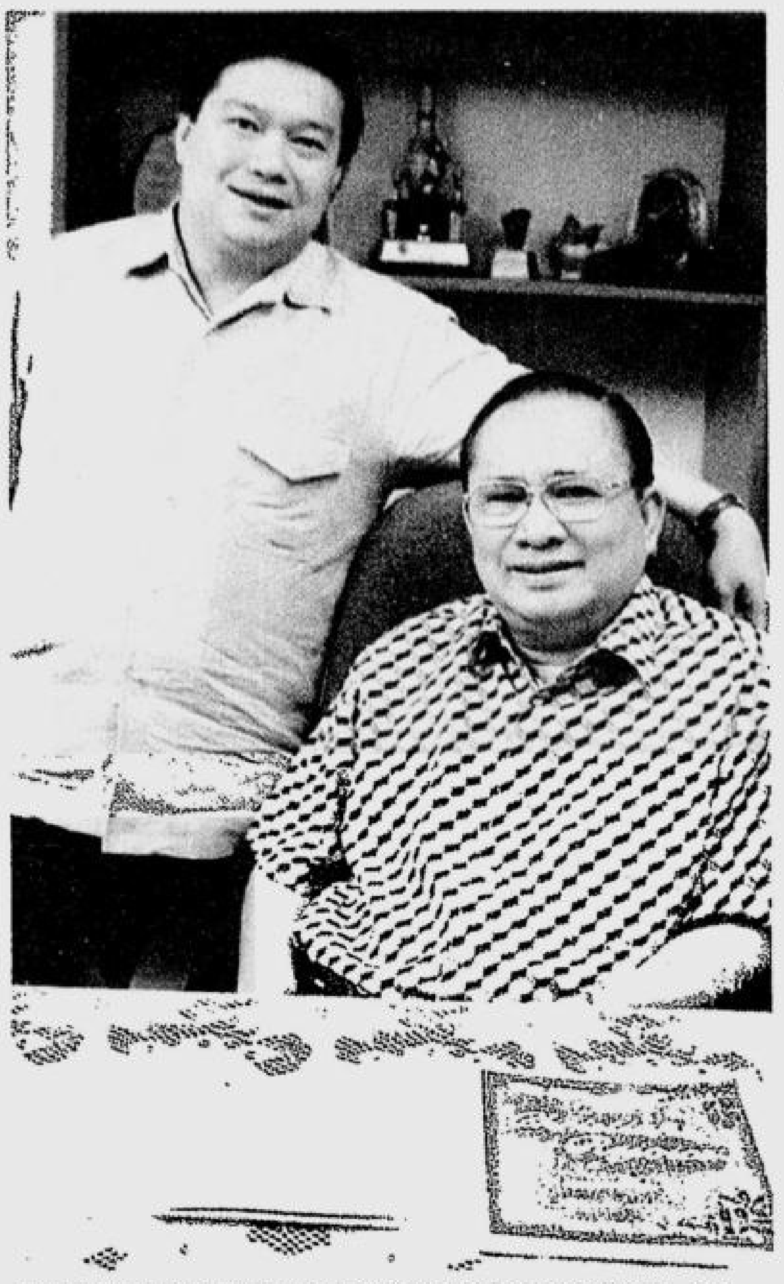
"Here I was able to do everything with His guidance—from the concept down to the smallest things that mattered until these projects were finally realized," she said.

Vima is indeed a manifestation of love that has originated from two families—united by a couple, and now spreading God's love to other people.

"Anyone can listen to our music, whether it be people out in the streets or stuck in traffic, or just plainly meditating at home," says Efrem. "Our music is not just inspirational, it soothes the soul."

The three albums of Sam and Efrem Malaki by Vima Inspirational Music are being promoted and distributed in Protestant churches in Metro Manila as well as in some provinces such as Baguio City, Cebu City, Southern Leyte, Davao City, Northern Samar, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan and Tarlac, and also to some Christian communities in the United States of America, Canada, France, Belgium, Germany and Hong Kong.

Copies of the albums can be bought at the Back to the Bible Bookstore, Philippine Bible House, Malate Church, Cosmopolitan Church and the United Methodist Church on UN Avenue.



**THE MEN behind Vima, Sam Malaki and Reynaldo Vigilia, say their music is soothing and inspiring.** BETOY JOHNSON

# *Andrew Fernando shows vocal maturity*

By Pablo A. Tariman
*Contributor*

TUESDAY last week, a slightly indis posed baritone Andrew Fernando gave a superb recital in the ongoing Filipino Artists Series with an equally outstanding assisting artist in the person of Najib Ismail.

The pre-concert announcement said the artist would perform "under the weather" and it was obvious he was nursing a cold and was exerting effort to stifle his coughing.

But a seasoned performer like Fernando certainly handled the situation with aplomb.

First, he took out the vocally dangerous "Don Giovanni" aria and substituted it with an aria from Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin."

Opening with Barber's "Dover Beach," which he sang for the government of Hong Kong in 1995, Fernando let out a vocal artistry of the highest order. With a highly sensitive piano part of Ismail, Fernando proved that a contemporary art song could have a distinct place alongside Schubert and Strauss if sung intelligently and with ardent vocal care.

Schubert's "Wohin (Where to?)" and Strauss' "Nacht (Night)" were examples of how a human voice can achieve the highest poetic permanence with an exemplary pianist. When he turned to Strauss' "Zueignung (Devotion)," it was like a virtual prayer, a dignified celebration limned with overpowering, if distilled, emotion.

The rest of the evening of Copland-arranged songs ("The Dodger," "Long Time Ago" and "I Bought Me a Cat") to selections from Faure and Pena and ending with Mark Adamo's "Kennst du das Land (Do You Know that Land?)" from "Little Women," Fernando revealed a vocal maturity and artistry seldom heard in this part of Metro Manila. After that recital, Fernando certainly deserved a pedestal reserved for Evelyn Mandac and Otoniel Gonzaga.

Next week, Fernando will sing in another recital in Minneapolis and start rehearsals for his Opera Pacific commitments—"La Boheme" (Schaunard) in November, "Salome" (First Soldier) in February and the contemporary opera "Music Shop" in May 2003.

L.A. Opera conductor Ted Nagano heard him in an audition recently and chances are his name will crop up in the future productions of this opera company directed by Placido Domingo.

### Here and there

FRENCH pianist turned conductor Philippe Entremont will conduct the Cadaquez Orchestra (a Spanish ensemble)in the Toyota Classics concert on Oct. 25 at the Meralco Theater with Filipino tenor Gary del Rosario and Spanish guitarist Jose Maria Gallardo del Rey as soloists. Entremont was last heard in Manila in 1977 as soloist in Rach Three and in a duo piano recital with the then 16-year-old Cecile Licad.

PHSA scholar Hiyas Hila has maintained her scholarship at the San Francisco Conservatory, getting an A in all her subjects. She got the undergraduate award as best in eastern philosophy (she got best in harmony last year). She just attended the New Millennium International Piano Festival held in Guijon, Asturias, Spain, where she played Beethoven's Sonata in E Flat Major Op. 81 in the master class conducted by Blanca Uribe.

Oliver Salonga will be heard in a solo recital at the Valdez Hall of St. Ferdinand College in Ilagan, Isabela, on Sept. 27, 3 p.m. Salonga was one of the favorite attractions in the First Pasig Summer Music Festival and some of those he impressed were filmmaker Marilou Diaz-Abaya, actor Ronnie Lazaro and film scorer Nonong Buencamino. Cecile Licad finally heard Salonga last month and assessed him as "highly promising." His program: Bach's Prelude and Fugue in C Sharp Major No. 3, Mozart's Sonata in C Major K 330, Beethoven's Sonata No. 8 Op. 13 ("Pathetique"), Mendelssohn's Rondo Capriccioso, Chopin's Etude No. 1 Op. 10, Nocturne in F Op. 15, Fantaisie Impromptu and Scherzo No. 2 in B Flat Minor. The recital is a 52nd anniversary presentation of St. Ferdinand College headed by its president, Dr. Violeta Directo.

California-based soprano Jovita Castro, last heard at the CCP as Pamina in the production of "Magic Flute" in the early '80s, passed away June 29. The other Pamina, Lilia Reyes, had passed away last year.

In my write-up on excellent Filipino voices, I overlooked the fact that in the coming Lyric Opera of Singapore production of "Carmen," the part of Micaela will also be sung by a Filipina, no other than soprano Rachelle Gerodias. Did you know that the soprano was a victim of car thieves? She fought back but let go in the end. She sustained bruises. Can't President Macapagal-Arroyo go after these criminals the way she exerted effort to catch those who victimized her manicurist?

### Search for PPO conductor

Meanwhile, the pro-poor program of GMA is finding its way at the CCP where it is recruiting young musicians from the poor and depressed areas to beef up the PPO. Those who passed the auditions were presented last Saturday at the Cuneta Astrodome.

As PPO music director Ruggero Barbieri's appointment can no longer be extended beyond 2004, the CCP has formed a search committee to find his replacement. If the members of this search committee is familiar with Manila's music scene, they need not look far. Replacements for Barbieri are just around, but questions are likely to be asked: will the new PPO music director get the same salary as the Italian conductor? Chances are the new appointee wouldn't even receive half of it.

The country's old and new conductors here and abroad number no more than 15 and the active ones number no more than five. They include Julian Quirit (Australia), Eugene Fredrick Castillo (California), Hernan Constantino (California), Oscar Yatco (Germany), Regalado Jose, Sergio Esmilla, Basilio Manalo, Francisco Feliciano, Nonoy Diestro, Cecinio Ronquillo, Arturo Molina, Rodel Colmenar, Herminigildo Ranera, Joseph Esmilla and Wilfredo Pasamba. Esmilla (Sr.) and Manalo are no longer active, but the latter has consistently encouraged Molina and Pasamba by giving them a chance to train with the Manila Youth Symphony now known as the MSO II. The late Redentor Romero gave unwavering support to Colmenar and Ranera by giving them a chance to conduct his European soloists.

Who did CCP train and support among the country's promising conductors? The favorite of the Performing Arts Department is Cosinio Ronquillo and quite promising is cellist Renato Lucas. Some years back, the CCP helped Diestro get a scholarship for further studies in conducting in France. Twice, Diestro became finalist in two international conducting competitions in France. When he came back to Manila, he was ignored by the CCP and never got around to conducting the PPO. The French liked him. The former Spanish ambassador gave him conducting chores in some European festivals. But the CCP apparently doesn't believe in him.

Castillo got to conduct an orchestra in California by rigid auditions. He just debuted with the National Symphony in Washington, D.C., to rave reviews. He wrote to the PPO to guest-conduct but he was totally ignored.

Meanwhile, Quirit—frustrated with PPO managers—decided to support another orchestra, the San Miguel Philharmonic, which he will conduct on Nov. 11 with pianist Albert Tiu as soloist. Feliciano is too busy with his new opera, Yatco can only guest-conduct, Colmenar is with SMPO and PPO wannabes (the good ones) are down to Castillo, Diestro and perhaps Constantino (if the two can be persuaded to stay longer in Manila and endure the CCP rate for Filipino conductors).

This search committee should instead give candidates a slot or two in the season concerts and let CCP administrators, active music critics and seasoned concertgoers decide. That's how the National Symphony in Washington and other orchestras abroad give chances to aspirants to conducting posts. But as a member of the CCP board says, it is an irony that PPO members are not inclined to give support to promising Filipino conductors, but will embrace a foreign import who can unify the warring factions in the orchestra. With situations like this, it is not surprising that musicians flock to San Miguel.

**BARITONE Andrew Fernando gives superb recital.**

# Lisa Macuja-Elizalde leads 'Giselle'

LOVE conquers all—even those not bound by earthly frontiers.

This is the gist of "Giselle," one of the most well-loved ballets of all time.

Ballet Manila presents Giselle for its latest production on Sept. 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29 at the Star Theater, CCP Complex, Pasay City.

A romantic ballet in two acts, Giselle will be topbilled by Ballet Manila principal ballerina Lisa Macuja-Elizalde in the title role, alternating with senior soloists Melanie Motus and Elline Damian.

Completing the cast are principal danseur Osias Barroso, junior principal Jeffrey Espejo and senior soloist Eduardo Espejo alternating as Albrecht; stage and television actress Mia Gutierrez as Berthe, senior soloist Aileen Gallinera as Myrtha, the Queen of the Wilis, and senior soloist Pamela Asprer and soloist Sandra Lynn Huang as the lead Wilis. They are supported by Ballet Manila dancers, apprentices, scholars and selected students from the Ballet Manila School.

"Giselle" tells the story of the peasant girl who falls in love with another peasant, Loys. In truth Loys is not a commoner but is Count Albrecht, a scion of the ruling family and engaged to a noble woman Bathilde. The gamekeeper Hilarion, also in love with Giselle, unmasks Albrecht whereupon Giselle goes into a mad fit and ruefully dances her life away. She then becomes one of the Wilis, spirits of girls who die before their wedding, doomed to rise from their graves nightly to seek vengeance and lure men to their death by dancing them out of exhaustion.

Ballet dancers have always regarded "Giselle" as a touchstone of every ballet dancer's art.

Call 512-5031/32, 525-5967/1584.

**DULAANG UP will stage Spanish poet-dramatist Federico Garcia Lorca's "El Publico," translated in Filipino by poet Vim Nadera. "Ang Madla" will run Sept. 11-29. It will have a special run at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium of the RCBC Plaza in Makati on Oct. 16 as part of the 2002 Spanish Festival for Culture and the Arts. Call 926-1349/1199.**